

TOMORROW

Future... Great expectations: New Year hopes and resolutions from some top people of 1983, and a 1984 calendar of world sport.

Perfect... Forever England: tiffin and tennis parties in Malaysia, land of Somerset Maugham.

Cut... A day at the sales: Values offers a guide for bargain-hunters.

And run... Julie Davidson celebrates logmanay by temporarily abandoning her Scottish home and fleeing to the Feos.

Brother... Neil Kinocoff reflects on the real lessons of George Orwell's 1984.

In law... Gavin Stamp looks at planning legislation and how different architects respond to the controls.

Best Austin Rover year since 1979... Austin Rover has produced 450,000 cars this year, 44 per cent of all cars made in Britain.

US to review terror tactics... The Pentagon investigation into the Beirut suicide bombing is likely to result in a global reappraisal of US military tactics.

Stunted children... A study commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security says that children of the long-term unemployed can suffer from stunted growth.

Gandhi debut... Mr Rajiv Gandhi, son of the Indian Prime Minister, strongly attacked the left when he delivered his first important speech at a party meeting in Calcutta.

Beach Boy dies... Dennis Wilson, drummer in the Beach Boys pop group, drowned while diving in a marina near Los Angeles.

Breath-test call... A Conservative MP has called for the introduction of random breath tests to reduce death and injury on the roads.

Deafness risk... Young people are at serious risk of having impaired hearing in later life because of prolonged exposure to loud music.

Pound rises... The pound touched \$1.45 for the first time in three weeks, with the dollar weakening as expectations fell of a rise in American interest rates.

China's success... China has achieved its 1985 production targets two years early, it is reported.

Boycott applies... Geoffrey Boycott has applied to join the Yorkshire committee as a representative of Wakefield district.

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US brushes aside Western pleas to stay in Unesco

The Reagan Administration yesterday formally announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) at the end of next year. The US departure will be a serious financial blow to Unesco, which relies on the United States to contribute about one-quarter of its annual budget.

Simple wedding ceremony for Princess Caroline



Married in Monte Carlo: Princess Caroline, flanked by her husband, Prince Philippe Junot, and her father, Prince Rainier, waving to well-wishers outside Monaco's royal palace yesterday.

Soviet hint of 'change for better'

The Supreme Soviet (Russia's Parliament) yesterday condemned the Reagan Administration's "reckless and bellicose policies" but said Moscow would seek a "change for the better" in world affairs at next month's disarmament conference in Stockholm.

Embassy man shot dead

One member of the administrative staff of the Jordanian Embassy in Madrid was shot dead and another seriously injured yesterday by a waiting gunman as the two were leaving work in a car.

Charity workers head honours poll

There is four times more popular support for giving New Year Honours to charity workers than to groups whose members habitually figure in the lists - local government officials, senior civil servants and nationalized industry chairmen.

S Africans bomb Swapo HQ in Angola

Four South African aircraft have attacked the main base of the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), General Command Viljoen, the chief of the South Africa Defence Force, announced yesterday.

Simonstown spy couple found guilty

Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, the former commanding officer of the South African naval dockyard at Simonstown, and his wife, Ruth, were yesterday convicted in the Cape Supreme Court of high treason on charges of spying for the Soviet Union.

Rising anger over latest shipment of UHT milk

The dispute between Britain and its EEC partners over imports of UHT milk threatened yesterday to worsen as the Newhaven port health authority refused to prosecute the importer and the Commission in Brussels angrily demanded explanations from the British Government.

Alliance told to get ready for coalition

Dr David Owen has used his new year message to the Social Democrats to warn his party and the Alliance to prepare to work in a coalition government after the next general election.

Best Austin Rover year since 1979

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The Pentagon investigation into the Beirut suicide bombing is likely to result in a global reappraisal of US military tactics, including a tougher response to terrorism.

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HARRODS SALE advertisement. Includes text: 'Modern Furniture', 'Examples from Zevi at Half Price', 'A collection of occasional furniture in cream finished steel', and a table of furniture items and prices.

Austin Rover takes lead with biggest share of cars made in Britain

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

BL's Austin Rover subsidiary has had its best year since 1979, producing more than 44 per cent of all cars made in Britain, and nearly twice as many as Ford manufactured here.

Production topped 450,000 cars, compared with 390,000 in 1982. Ford maintains its leadership with more than 300,000 sales, giving it 29 per cent of the market, compared with Austin Rover's 18 per cent, but the Americans imported nearly half their cars from factories in Germany, Belgium and Spain.

With a few sales returns outstanding, Austin Rover has sold more than 320,000 cars this year, 53,000 more than last year, representing its best performance since 1979.

In the biggest British market ever, with more than 1,780,000 cars sold, Austin Rover sales were up by 30 per cent, compared with the overall increase of 15 per cent.

The most encouraging improvement for taxpayers, who have subsidized the company for the past decade, is its productivity. In 1979 it produced only six cars per man. Today output is more than 40 cars per man and equal to the best in Europe.

Austin Rover now has only two modernized assembly plants, Longbridge and Cowley, instead of five, and both had their best production for ten years.

Thanks largely to the Metro's success, Longbridge produced 255,000 cars compared with Cowley's 198,000. But the new LM 11 saloon's arrival next spring will further boost Cowley's output.

Mr Harold Musgrove, Austin Rover's chairman, said last night: "Our growth in the UK during the past 12 months has been achieved in the face of the fiercest competition anyone in the industry has ever known."

"We still have our upper-medium sector car to come, and we are confident that sales and output will continue to rise during 1984."

Mr John Egan, Jaguar's chairman, had some advice for those interested in bidding for the company, which is tipped to return to private hands in 1984.

Writing in Jaguar's in-house magazine yesterday, he said: "Our level of investment over the next five years must be even greater than our competitor's to enable us to bring ourselves back into line."

He thought £40m a year for five years would be the minimum required, because "there are still mountains to climb."

He said: "We need the investment because it is no good for us to do with sweat and tears what Mercedes-Benz achieve with machines."

Long-term unemployment can lead to stunted growth in the children of parents who are out of work, according to a study commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The study, which was carried out by the department of statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, examined nearly 10,000 children between 1981 and 1982. It found that two-year-old children of the long-term unemployed could be nearly as much stunted as children with one or both parents at work.

The main findings of the report are due to be published next week in *New Health*, a monthly magazine devoted to fitness and health.

According to Dr Peter Fox, director of the unit responsible for the report, the differences in height occurred across social classes. It has long been a well-established fact that the health of the poor is worse than that of the better off.

Having taken into account the biological factors, all the social factors which could cause lack of growth, including social class, were "eliminated by the effect of unemployment and its associated factors", Dr Fox said.

The team at the School of Hygiene, which has already looked at factors such as a mother's height, birth weight, breast feeding, quality of housing and locality, will now have to analyse the quality of food eaten by children.

According to Dr Fox, if the differences in height are associated with the environment and the environment does not change, the differences are likely to continue as the children grow older.

Janet Webb dies of cancer at 53

The actress Janet Webb, once one of Britain's most famous fat people, died yesterday of cancer. She was 53.

Miss Webb, who made her name in the *Morecambe and Wise Show* in the 1970s, died in the Middlesex Hospital, London. Her husband, Mr Charles Vnzranger, a violinist, was at her bedside.

Miss Webb, who was nearly 16 stone, always stole the applause when she made her grand entrances at the end of the shows dressed in glittering and lavish gowns.

Mr Eric Morecambe said yesterday: "She worked with us for about eight years and she was a pleasure to know."

Miss Webb was keen to show that fat people could, and should, be glamorous. "What I want to get across is that a large person can be glamorous and wear outrageous things and be positive about her size", she once said.

£32,131 for Smith inquest lawyer

Ratepayers will have to pay £32,131 or £164 an hour, to the Sir David Napley, the London lawyer, for representing Dr Richard Arnot at the Helen Smith inquest.

The final figure, disclosed yesterday by Mr John Gunnell, chairman of West Yorkshire Council is about £12,000 higher than the council had estimated.

Mr Gunnell said he was shocked that the High Court assessors who vetted Sir David's "enormous" bill, and another for £13,567 from the Huddersfield firm of Fowler and Crossley which represented four German drivers, had not made a single deduction.

However, the council had no option but to pay up, he said. It had originally agreed to pay all reasonable expenses so that vital witnesses could attend the inquest in Leeds last year into the death of the British nurse in Saudi Arabia.

The council had backed a long campaign by Miss Smith's father, Mr Ron Smith from

Children of jobless 'stunted'

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Heseltine offers view of '1984' in CND journal

Mr Michael Heseltine, secretary of State for Defence, who has consistently refused to appear on the same platform as members of the peace movement to debate defence issues, has an article in the latest edition of *Sanity*, the journal of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

He is one of five people in the January issue who gave their views on whether George Orwell's view of the future, as expressed in his satire *1984*, has come true. He is believed to be the first member of the present Government ever to have contributed to the magazine.

Earlier this month Mr Heseltine refused to appear on television with Mrs Joan Ruddock, the CND chairman to discuss the film *The Day After*.

In his article Mr Heseltine says that Orwell is giving a warning of what could happen if freedom were allowed to perish.

Orwell puts forward the prospect of constant war being waged at the periphery of three power blocs, Mr Heseltine says. The West has faced a very real and growing military threat from the Soviet Union and her allies, and has answered by forming an alliance of sovereign and independent countries.

Harrods bomb victim buried

Mrs Jasmine Kennedy-Cochrane-Patrick, aged 25, who was killed by the Harrods bomb, was buried in a quiet ceremony in west of Scotland village yesterday.

About 150 mourners gathered in St Andrew's Church, West Kilbride for the short funeral service, during which the Rev Arthur Fletcher referred to the IRA bombing as an "obscene distortion of Christmas".

He told the congregation: "Today we cannot speak of Jasmine's death without the realization that it was the result of the evil, indiscriminate and murderous tactics of a group of people who care nothing for the feelings, the principles or the values of those whom they seek to oppress."

"Their cause grows weaker, not stronger as they hope, whenever they launch an attack of this kind."

"We cry not against, condemn and call accursed in the sight of God, our creator and theirs, the inhuman violent crimes they commit in a cause which they pretend has to do with freedom."

Mrs Kennedy-Cochrane-Patrick was shopping in Knightsbridge before returning to Scotland to spend Christmas with her husband, Nigel, aged 26, and son, James, aged 2½, when the bomb exploded.

She had spent three months working in London as a trainee stockbroker and hoped to find a job in Glasgow next year.

After the funeral Mr Kennedy-Cochrane-Patrick said he did not want to comment on the bombing. "There is nothing I could say that would make any difference to what people think of this kind of thing."

An inquest was opened at Westminster coroner's court in London yesterday into the death of Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, another victim of the Harrods bombing.

Phone bills by instalments

By next spring residential telephone subscribers outside London will be invited to pay their telephone bills by monthly instalments through a bank account.

There are 15.5 million residential telephone subscribers in Britain, who pay on average £35 a quarter. The new budget account scheme will not be available to customers in London until 1985.

Kidnap link to McFarlane

Brendan McFarlane, a senior member of the IRA is believed to be the leader of the gang sought over the kidnapping of Mr Don Tidy, the chairman of executive.

Senior police sources in the Irish Republic said last night that McFarlane, who led last September's mass breakout from Northern Ireland's Maze prison, was linked by forensic science evidence to the kidnap.

Church attack

Vandals have smashed a stained glass window and a lighting conductor and damaged a notice board and seat in the porch of St John's Church, in Lower Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, causing damage estimated at £415.

Hebden repeats fine chess form

Mark Hebden, the young Leicester player who did so well last year in Hastings, seems to be in fine form in the Ace Fifty-ninth International Chess Congress in Hastings this year.

He followed his quick win against Nigel Short in the first round on Wednesday by beating the American grandmaster, Dimitri Gurevich, in no uncertain manner in the second round yesterday, and thus leads in the premier tournament with two points out of a possible two.

Gurevich was outplayed in the early middle game and had to surrender first one Bishop and then another, resigning when he was two pieces down.

Most of the other games ended in early draws but three were adjourned after five hours' play. In one Piatnuk had a level position against Ivanov though the American master had some attack on the King side when the game was adjourned.

The Romanian Suba was a pawn to the good against Andrew Martin and it looked as

Party leaders' new year messages

The following is the partial text of Mr David Steel's new year message to the Liberal Party:

It is inevitable, perhaps, that in this new year minds will turn to Orwellian prophecy.

For many, Orwell's grim predictions seem happily well to the mark. A fifth of mankind live in open and reasonably tolerant societies, enjoying standards of personal consumption, health, education and welfare which would have seemed utopian even a couple of generations ago.

Sadly, it also true that in large sections of the globe, human rights are violated on a scale quite as vast as in Orwell's nightmare. War and conflict are just as much the norm as the foreseen. And added to the possibility of conflict between rival super powers, armed with weapons of total destruction, is the gap between rich and poor, which poses as serious a threat to world peace as any ideological conflict.

So 1984 starts with sombre thoughts and with opinion polls revealing a deep mood of pessimism in Britain bordering on fatalism.

We should take heart, however, from the fact that though our problems, both national and global, are grave, mankind remains master of its own destiny. On the great issues of world poverty and disarmament there is a constructive way ahead, if statesmen and governments will only find the vision and vision for concerted action.

Social Democracy has, almost as its lodestar, a rejection of Orwellian

Woman and friend shot dead

A double murder hunt was launched yesterday after a young woman and a man friend were shot dead in a caravan.

Rosalind Richards, aged 18, a part-time barmaid, was found half-naked beside the blood-soaked bed. Her friend, Rodney Fellow, aged 32, a farmer was sprawled naked across the bed.

Both had been shot twice, in the head and body, with a 12-bore shotgun. They were found on Wednesday by Matthew Rodgers, aged five, who lives in a cottage a few yards from the caravan in a hamlet near Manaccan on the Lizard peninsula, Cornwall.

Miss Richards was the seventh of eight children. Police officers are checking all her known associates and those of Mr Fellow, a divorced former merchant navy man who lived at Covepark nearby.

Senior detectives, including the head of Devon and Cornwall CID, Det Chief Supt John Bissett, were flown to the remote scene by helicopter.

Miss Richards and Mr Fellow met only recently and on Boxing night he attended a party given at the caravan. They are believed to have been killed when he returned there the next day.

Thatcher's chicken for charity

Mrs Margaret Thatcher often boils a plump fowl when she prepares supper at No 10 Downing Street.

She then beats up two egg yolks with cream and sherry, thickens the mixture over a low heat and pours it on the cold chicken.

The result is Cold Chicken Venonique. Mrs Thatcher's contribution to a new cookery book published by the National Westminster Bank in aid of the Save the Children Fund.

The Prime Minister recommends grated lemon peel for the sauce which should gradually thicken as the dish cools. She suggests an accompaniment of rice salad.

"This is one of her favourite dishes which she likes to cook herself in the flat at No 10", Downing Street aide said.

Other contributions are Welsh cakes, from Sir Harry Frome, and "chip butties", from Terry Wogan.

Branch Out With Cookery (Save the Children Fund, £2.50).

ADVERTISEMENT

Today's Taste of Utopia

December 26th

The fullness of today's taste of Utopia, coming from the global assembly of 7,000 experts in the Maharishi University of the Unified Field at Maharishi International University, Fairfield, Iowa, U.S.A., is being enjoyed all around the world.

- A new world war can be prevented so long as all peace-loving people unite to work for peace.
- Overcoming past differences in the area, Association of South East Asian Nations welcomes Brunei as first member in 16 years.
- Australia agrees to resume suspended talks with ASEAN.
- Poland releases political prisoners.
- U.S. - Iran trade higher than any time since 1973.
- Expected revolution in farm productivity, resulting from new biotechnology, creates wave of optimism in American agriculture and belief that almost anything can be accomplished.
- Tokyo stock market rises to record level for third time in seven days.
- U.S. Christmas holiday traffic fatalities down.
- Mood at White House News Conference so friendly that it seemed like a giant missile was hovering over the White House.

These world events indicate that the "UNIFYING" "HARMONIZING", "NOURISHING", "SELF-SUFFICIENCY", "CREATIVITY", "DYNAMIC", "ORDERLINESS", "SUPPORT OF NATURE", "FREEDOM", and "BLISS" qualities of the unified field, enjoyed in the taste of Utopia during the last nine days, continue to be re-awakened in today's taste of Utopia.

Modern Science, Vedic Science

From both the objective approach of modern science and the subjective approach of Vedic Science, it is very clear that all these beautiful qualities are qualities of the unified field. Modern science locates all evolutionary values in the Lagrangian of the N=8 supergravity theory of quantum physics.

Vedic Science extols the glory of the unified field as a field of all possibilities. Rig Veda declares that the hymns of the Veda, the expressions of the laws of nature, constitute the unified field. The collective performance of the Maharishi Technology of the Unified Field cultivates the unified field, making all these beautiful qualities lively in individual and collective consciousness.

Scientific Research

Extensive scientific research on the Maharishi Technology of the Unified Field, collected in four volumes of 2,800 pages, has documented the growth of these qualities on every level of life - physiological, psychological, and sociological.

Tomorrow's taste of Utopia tomorrow...

MAHARISHI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, FAIRFIELD, IOWA 52564, USA

Poll backs honours for charity work

Continued from page 1

from companies which had contributed more than £2.75m to Conservative Party funds, said: "I would expect a sizable proportion to favour awards to businessmen, because although the public thinks British management is incompetent, they are put in awe of them by items in the newspapers and company advertising."

"Nationalized industry chairmen should have a better claim because they have onerous jobs, poorly paid by general industrial standards, and have the extra cross to bear of a close working relationship with the Prime Minister, which means they are bullied all the time."

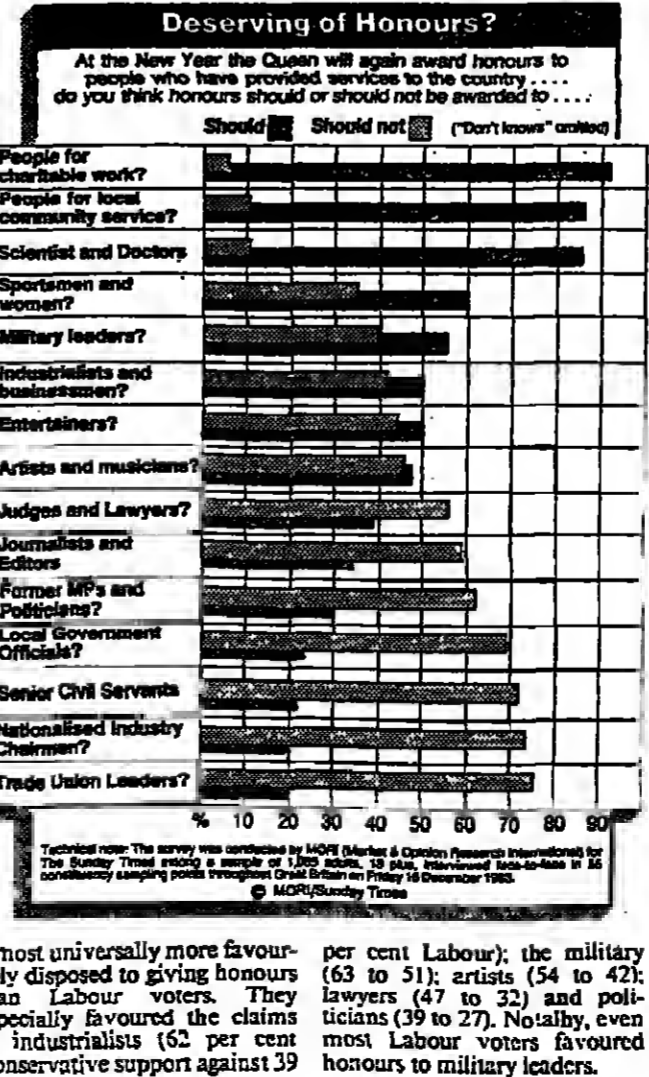
Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, said that lawyers got relatively few honours and probably deserved no more. "No one I ever recommend gets one anyway", he said. Mr David Teach, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, said that it was "not a year to honour lawyers. We have had abysmal utterances from several judges, and little in the way of upholding individual liberties."

Mr Hugh Belshaw, finance director of Oxfam, said: "Charity workers should bring their own satisfaction, can imagine the public would support honours for charity workers, but it should not be a token gesture."

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said: "I once recommended somebody for an award, but would never do so again. The present system is archaic and discredited. Why should trade union leaders be honoured anyway?"

Analysis of the poll findings reveals that young people, aged 18 to 24, were notably more favourable to giving honours than the population at large. Groups who won special favour with the young were sports people (65 per cent); journalists (40 per cent); and lawyers (44 per cent). They were also more generously disposed toward nationalized industry chairmen (24 per cent in favour) and senior civil servants (29 per cent).

Men were more favourable than women to honours for politicians, businessmen and trade union leaders. Women looked more kindly upon the claims of local community workers and scientists. Class differences were few, but politicians and industrialists were more popular with the middle classes, and sports personalities with the skilled working class. Conservative voters were



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Both had been shot twice, in the head and body, with a 12-bore shotgun. They were found on Wednesday by Matthew Rodgers, aged five, who lives in a cottage a few yards from the caravan in a hamlet near Manaccan on the Lizard peninsula, Cornwall.

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Conservative MP seeks random breath tests to reduce road deaths

By Michael Horswell

A call for the introduction of random breath tests to reduce death and injury on the roads was made yesterday by Mr Stephen Norris, Conservative MP for Oxford East.

Following a complaint on Tuesday by a Conservative colleague, Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak that the police had been "hounding" motorists during the Christmas holiday with unjustified breath tests, and moving quietly towards random ones.

Mr Norris said there was evidence that in other countries such as Sweden, where random tests are allowed, that road deaths involving drink-driving had been cut.

"The drink-driving laws in Sweden are so tight that virtually no one is caught if he has been drinking," he said.

He did not believe random testing to be an infringement of personal liberty. People already accepted that they were liable to be stopped for roadside checks on the condition of their car, and speed traps were also random.

The Home Office said yesterday that the police are not at liberty to conduct random tests.

A national survey of Christmas holiday breath-testing will not be available until next week but further evidence of differing attitudes to it by police forces throughout the country emerged.

Nottinghamshire police, which denied allegations of random testing, said that in the first 10 days of the Christmas campaign 3,006 drivers were tested but only 49 were found to be over the limit.

In neighbouring Lincolnshire, however, the police issued only 77 drivers, of whom 15 were over the limit.

Thames Valley Police, which covers Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, reported a 30 per cent increase in breath tests on the number conducted last Christmas. During the six days to December 27, 470 drivers suspected of drink-driving offences were checked and of these 88 proved positive.

In the West Midlands 143 drivers gave positive breath

tests in the seven days to December 28, seven fewer than in the same period last year.

Police forces throughout the country said that stringent checks would be continued during the new year.

Despite the police crackdown breweries are reporting a "satisfactory" Christmas from early returns, but with large regional variations.

Wales, where two licensing districts were the only areas in Europe in which public houses and hotels could not serve drinks on Christmas Day because it fell on a Sunday, appeared among the worst hit. In the North-west, however, trade was described as buoyant despite high unemployment.

Tolly Cobbold, the East Anglian brewery which covers areas where motorists are jailed for drink-driving offences, said that the police crackdown had had no noticeable effect on beer sales in public houses. Stocks of non-alcoholic lager had to be replenished before Christmas after an unexpectedly big demand.

Arthritis drug ban demanded

By Thomson Prentice

The Committee on Safety of Medicines is continuing to review anti-arthritis pain killers containing phenylbutazone and oxyphenbutazone, which the United States Government was asked yesterday to ban immediately because of serious side effects.

A consumer protection group in Washington called for the ban on two products, Burazolindin and Tanderil, saying that their side effects could have led to more than 10,000 deaths worldwide.

The drugs are available under prescription in Britain and have been associated with 573 British deaths since 1964. Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health, is awaiting the outcome of the safety committee's review of the products before considering whether they should be withdrawn.

Doctors have been warned for some years in product information sheets that the drugs have been linked with gastro-intestinal intolerance and bleeding and blood disorders. About one million prescriptions are issued each year.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that the drug manufacturer, the Swiss-owned Ciba-Geigy, were cooperating fully with the inquiry from the British laboratories at Horsham, West Sussex.

Mr Clarke said in the House of Commons two weeks ago: "I am aware of public concern about this matter and the safety committee has products in this class under close review."

He disclosed in a written answer that 1,685 cases of suspected adverse reaction to Butazolidin, including 442 deaths, and 503 reports of suspected adverse reaction to Tanderil, including 131 deaths, had been reported to the committee.

Ciba-Geigy said in Basle yesterday that the company would contest any attempt to remove the two drugs from the market. An official said they had been supplied to 180 million patients since 1952.

"We have had casualties, put at about 1,200, but we do not know whether the drugs were the direct reason."

Remarriage scheme faces clergy boycott

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England's new scheme for remarriage divorces in church may be boycotted by many of the clergy if big changes are not made to the procedure, the Church of England's executive said in a policy statement. Some will refuse even to read the bans of marriage of divorced persons, which they are legally obliged to do, and the Church Union says it will support them in that decision.

As many as a third of the parochial clergy may be unable to accept the scheme as it stands, the Church Union's executive said in a policy statement. Some will refuse even to read the bans of marriage of divorced persons, which they are legally obliged to do, and the Church Union says it will support them in that decision.

The present proposals have had a long and bitter passage through the General Synod and are due to return there for final approval in February.

The changes that the Church Union says would be necessary before Anglo-Catholics could support the scheme have been rejected at earlier stages despite veiled hints that a boycott would take place if there was no accommodation to Anglo-Catholic attitudes. That threat has now been made explicit.

The executive of the Church Union is demanding that the scheme should be made acceptable to clergy who regard marriage as indissoluble, but who could operate with a system like that in the Roman Catholic Church for annulling marriages to certain cases.

Where a marriage could be judged not to have existed in the first place, despite a legal ceremony, such clergy would cooperate in a "second" marriage.

Yesterday's statement listed the changes, calling them "substantial", which the General Synod would have to make to the scheme to win that degree of cooperation.

"We advise priests not to take part in the proposed procedures unless they are substantially amended", the Church Union's policy statement said. "We trust that no bishop will authorize, and no priest will solemnize, a 'second marriage' except in rare cases where it can be established beyond all reasonable doubt that the previous union was not a true and binding marriage."

The union's most serious criticism of the proposed procedure is the absence of any criteria by which the bishop and his panel of advisers will judge whether to allow a second marriage in church.



Satisfied customer: Miss Betty Creech, of West Hampstead, London, with one of her friends yesterday in Regent's Park, where she regularly feeds the squirrels and birds. (Photograph: John Voos)

Warning on home sale incentives

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Young couples buying new "starter" homes are sometimes losing thousands of pounds when they sell, particularly if they have to sell in the first year or two, the Anglia Building Society says in a review of this year's housing market.

Small "starter" homes, often one-bedroom maisonettes, have become so popular that prices have risen sharply, but some first-time buyers have experienced difficulties when they have needed to sell earlier than expected, Mr Peter Morison, Anglia's chief surveyor, writes.

"Second-hand 'starter' homes do not have the benefit of incentive packages to help in selling them and losses of £2,000 and upwards had been incurred; in one case the loss was £6,500.

Incentive packages from builders, such as new furniture, carpets, and kitchens, as well as cheap mortgages, he says, often make "starter" homes attractive. But second-hand kitchen equipment does not command a good price, and the other incentives, such as cheap mortgages and free legal work and stamp duty, are not available on resale.

According to estate agents, incentives for the new home are reflected in the price, which in effect overvalues the house.

The Anglia has noted that in the East Midlands some resales are £4,500 less than the new price. On one estate in the South-east, the package price of a one-bedroom maisonette stood at £31,000, whereas the second-hand resale figure just obtained for a similar dwelling was £24,500.

In Hampshire, a price drop of £3,000 was reported with similar losses in other regions throughout the country. Mr Morison said that the Anglia was not telling people not to buy "starter" homes, but advising them to understand the difficulties that might arise.

Mr Morison says the message for first-time buyers is a clear one: "Check the local housing market and how used 'starters' homes are faring." Modern second-hand houses, typically the suburban "seminis", which were not long ago the backbone of the housing market, were out as popular this year as new property.

"Plenty of bargains are still around in this sector, but they tend to get overlooked by first-time buyers who show a strong preference to buy new, often smaller, properties with all the latest innovations."

Overall, the Anglia reported that house prices had increased by 9 per cent this year, the biggest rise for three years. New house prices went up by 8.5 per cent, and modern second-hand houses by 8.2 per cent.

Emergency clinics 'a success'

By David Cross

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service, which has for the first time run an emergency service during the Christmas and New Year, said yesterday that the experiment had been a great success.

Mrs Diane Munday, for the organization, said that two of the three clinics which were open yesterday for abortion and sterilization operations were fully booked and that advisory and referral branches had been busy dealing with inquiries about pregnancy tests, abortions and morning-after birth control pills.

The service normally closes its five nursing homes and 30 advisory branches for up to a fortnight between Christmas Eve and the New Year. But this year the organization made arrangements for a limited service to operate during the holiday period for women who were worried that they might become pregnant during the festivities.

The nursing homes were also open so that women could have advantage of their husbands being at home to look after the family while they were having an abortion.

Mrs Munday cited Luton and Bournemouth as two branches which had had particularly busy periods this week.

On Wednesday, the Bournemouth branch received 25 inquiries during the five hours that it was open and made 19 appointments, including 11 for possible abortions, four for pregnancy tests, two for post-abortion checks and two for vasectomies. Its 24-bed out-patient ward in Doochester carried out 26 abortions and six vasectomies yesterday.

Letters of allotment in respect of Stock allotted, being the only form in which the Stock may be transferred prior to registration, will be despatched by post at the risk of the allottee, or of lenders at prices above the allotment price, the return of any excess amount paid, may at the discretion of the Bank of England be withheld until the lender's cheque has been paid. In the event of such withholding, the lender will be notified by letter by the Bank of England of the date of his cheque, and he will be required to forward to him, subject to each case in its own merits, but such notification will confer no right on the lender to transfer the Stock as allocated.

No allotment will be made for a less amount than £100 Stock. In the event of partial allotment, or of lenders at prices above the allotment price, the return of any excess amount paid, will be made by cheque despatched by post at the risk of the allottee. If no allotment is made the amount paid will be returned forthwith. Non-payment on presentation of a cheque despatched by post will be treated as a failure to pay. The Stock, liable to cancellation, interest at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven day deposits sterling (LIBOR) plus 1 per cent per annum (simple) however charged on the amount payable in respect of any allotment of Stock which has been accepted after the due date. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations, on the due date for such payment, for LIBOR obtained from such source or sources as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate.

Letters of allotment may be sent in denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or by any of the branches of the Bank of England, on any date not later than 29th February 1984. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment. Letters of allotment, accompanied by a completed registration form, may be lodged for registration (forwards) and in any case they must be lodged for registration not later than 13th February 1984.

Tender forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or at any of the branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2EX, at the Bank of Ireland, Moira Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colander Street, Belfast, BT1 5BE, at Midland & Co., 15 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AR, or at any office of the Bank of England in the United Kingdom.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
29th December 1983

Deafness risk to teenagers

By Kenneth Gosling

High noise levels from personal hi-fi equipment, home headsets and from discotheques are creating a serious risk of impaired hearing to young people in later life.

The warning was given yesterday by the country's four leading organizations helping deaf people. Mr Harry Cayton, director of the National Deaf Children's Society, the charity most in contact with the age group exposed to discotheque noise, said: "There is increasing evidence that prolonged exposure to loud music can cause permanent damage to health."

The organizations make the point, timely in view of the popularity of personal hi-fis as gifts, that young people frequently set the volume too high.

Mr Cayton says that the high sensitivity of headphones and use with power amplifiers raises their potential for damage.

The development of portable cassette recorders has increased the risk, he says, by extending the use of headphones to outside the home.

About two to three thousand young people every year might be suffering damage to their hearing, the most vulnerable age groups being those in their early teens through to the early twenties.

About half attend discotheques and many more are exposed regularly to high levels of amplified music.

In industry, the charities say, 90 decibels for eight hours is considered harmful to hearing. But in discotheques the noise levels often exceed 100 decibels.

Boy dies after eating pen top

By Kenneth Gosling

A boy aged six who swallowed a sweet-flavoured plastic pen top at his home on Christmas Day died in hospital yesterday.

Matthew Chambers had been on a life support machine in the intensive care unit at Southampton General Hospital after being flown there from his home on the Isle of Wight.

He had swallowed the top from a scented felt-tip pen given to him as a present.

Matthew, of Fleming Close, Binstead, near Ryde, youngest of five children, is thought to have ruptured a lung when he swallowed the top, which he had been sucking.

Divorce for top lawyer

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr George Carman, QC, was granted an undefended divorce from his second wife, Frances, aged 33, in the London Divorce Court yesterday, on the grounds of her adultery with an unnamed man. They were married in 1976.

Mr Carman, aged 54, has defended such clients as Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, and Mr Peter Adamson, the actor.

Doctor's funeral

By Kenneth Gosling

The funeral of Dr Leonard Arthur, who became ill 18 months after his trial at Leicester Crown Court in 1981, when he was cleared of the attempted murder of a Down's syndrome baby, took place at St Michael's Church, Church Broughton, Derbyshire, yesterday.

Search fails

By Kenneth Gosling

Police and coastguards have abandoned their search for Mr David Scarf, aged 40, who is thought to have fallen over a cliff while foraging on the Isle of Wight. He has been missing from his home at Freshwater since Wednesday.

Appeal for blood

By Kenneth Gosling

Blood banks serving London and the Home Counties who are facing a severe shortage of the most common blood type, have appealed to blood group 'O' donors to help to replenish dwindling supplies.

New British satellite to act as radio mail box

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Radio enthusiasts around the world who are equipped with the appropriate electronic gadgetry and a home computer will be able to send electronic mail to each other using the memory of a new satellite to be launched in March next year.

The satellite, being assembled against a tight 80-day schedule by a team led by Surrey University, will have a memory of about 50,000 words, enabling it to serve as an electronic mail box for more than 5,000 radio amateurs, schools, colleges and computer users.

USAT-1-B, as it is called, is the second satellite to be built by the university. The first, USAT-1, was launched in

Film on handicapped upsets resort

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Hoteliers in the seaside resort of Teignmouth, Devon, have attacked a Yorkshire Television decision to screen a documentary next Tuesday, which they say will resurrect controversy about holidays for the mentally handicapped.

They say it will affect bookings at a time when they are spending thousands of pounds on advertising.

The controversy came to a head last summer when Mr Brian Rix, the actor and secretary-general of Mencap, the charity for the mentally handicapped called some Teignmouth hoteliers and restaurant

Edinburgh Festival loses £150,000

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Next year's Edinburgh Festival may face cash problems. This year's event made a £150,000 loss, the largest deficit since its launching 36 years ago.

A wayward computer and an unpopular programme brochure were two of the chief reasons for the loss. Mr Tom Morgan, Lord Provost of Edinburgh and chairman of the Festival Society, said yesterday. But the event was a popular success and attracted record audiences.

The festival would be asking the city council, the Arts Council, and any other bodies willing to help. "There will be a very determined effort to ensure that the result from this year will not adversely affect the 1984 festival, and to ensure that our new director does not suffer because of it," Mr Morgan said.

"This loss is a drop in the ocean in comparison with the advantages brought by the

owners heartless for not admitting the handicapped.

The Yorkshire documentary, *A Summer Holiday*, will show Staff Nurse Neill Mannion checking in shops and cafes in Teignmouth to find out whether his patients would be allowed in.

Mr Don Riddell, Mayor of Teignmouth, said: "It is disgusting to drag it all up again."

Mrs Margaret Fresco, a restaurant owner, said: "We were told the documentary would be going out last September... why wait until now when it will hit us hardest?"



Brian Rix: criticism of hoteliers

£1,000 fine for flight outburst

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

An American engineer, Leonard Dobrowski, aged 37, was fined £1,000 yesterday with an alternative of 90 days' imprisonment after admitting that he had acted in a manner likely to endanger an aircraft. Uxbridge magistrates heard that on a Boeing 707 flight from Washington to Heathrow Mr Dobrowski shouted that there was a bomb on board. The crew had to restrain him and he struck a duty officer.

Mr P. E. Honke, for the defence, said his client, who had been drinking heavily, had a nightmare in which someone placed a bomb to his luggage.

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES (N.I.), WATLING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 9AA NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 29th DECEMBER 1983, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR THE GLASGOW AGENCY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27th JANUARY 1984.

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £300,000,000

2 per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 1990

PAYABLE IN FULL WITH TENDER

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 25th JANUARY AND 25th JULY

- The Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Treasury Investments Act 1967. Applications have been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List.
- THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorized to receive tenders for the above Stock.
- The principal and interest on the Stock will be charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.
- The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be subject to the provisions of the Treasury Investment Act 1967. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.
- If not previously redeemed under the provisions of paragraph 14, the Stock will be repaid on 25th January 1990. The value of the amount on repayment will be related to the index figure for the month of payment. The interest figure will be calculated by multiplying the actual index figure applicable to the month of payment by the index figure on the old base for the month in which the revised index is based and dividing the product by the new base figure for the same month. This procedure will be used for each occasion on which a revision is made during the life of the Stock.
- The amount due on repayment, per £100 nominal of Stock, will be £100 multiplied by the index figure applicable to the month in which repayment takes place. This amount, expressed in pounds sterling to four places of decimals, will be related to the month before that prior month, "month" means calendar month; and the index rate applicable to any month will be equal to the index figure applicable to that month divided by the Index figure applicable to January 1984.
- The amount due on repayment, per £100 nominal of Stock, will be £100 multiplied by the index figure applicable to the month in which repayment takes place. This amount, expressed in pounds sterling to four places of decimals, will be related to the month before that prior month, "month" means calendar month; and the index rate applicable to any month will be equal to the index figure applicable to that month divided by the Index figure applicable to January 1984.
- Each subsequent half-yearly interest payment will be at a rate, per £100 nominal of Stock, of £1 multiplied by the index rate applicable to the month in which the payment takes place.
- The rate of interest for each interest payment other than the first, expressed as a percentage in pounds sterling to four places of decimals rounded to the nearest figure below, will be announced by the Bank of England not later than the business day immediately preceding the date of the previous interest payment.
- If the index is revised in a new base after the Stock is issued, it will be necessary, for the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, to calculate and use a notional index figure to substitute for the index figure applicable to the month in which repayment takes place and/or an interest payment falls due ("the month of payment"). The notional index figure will be calculated by multiplying the actual index figure applicable to the month of payment by the index figure on the old base for the month in which the revised index is based and dividing the product by the new base figure for the same month. This procedure will be used for each occasion on which a revision is made during the life of the Stock.
- If the index is not published for a month for which it is relevant for the purposes of this prospectus, the Bank of England, after appropriate consultation with the relevant Government Department, will publish a substitute index figure which shall be an estimate of the index figure which would have been applicable to the month of payment, and such substitute index figure shall be used for all purposes for which the actual index figure would have been relevant. The calculation by the Bank of England of the amount of the substitute index figure shall be based on the best available information and shall be subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General. No subsequent adjustment to such amounts will be made in the event of subsequent publication of the index figure which would have been applicable in the month of payment.
- If any change should be made to the coverage or the basic calculation of the index which, in the opinion of the Bank of England, constitutes a fundamental change in the index which would be materially detrimental to the interests of stockholders, the Bank of England will publish a notice in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes immediately following the announcement by the relevant Government Department of the change. Existing stockholders and offering them the right to transfer their Stock to the Treasury to redeem their stock. For the purposes of this paragraph, repayment to stockholders who have transferred their stock to the Treasury will be made at the price which would have been applicable to the month of payment of the old index. The amount of principal due on repayment and of any interest which has accrued will be calculated on the basis of the substitute index figure which would have been applicable to the month of payment.
- Tenders must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (N.I.), Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 27th JANUARY 1984, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2EX, on any date not later than 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27th JANUARY 1984. Each tender must be for one amount and at one price which is a multiple of £100,000 and must be accompanied by a completed registration form. A notice setting out the administrative arrangements will be sent to stockholders at their registered address by the Bank of England approximately 10 days before the date of the issue.
- Tenders must be accompanied by payment in full, i.e. the price tendered for every £100 of the nominal amount of Stock tendered for. A separate cheque must accompany each tender; cheques must be drawn on a bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
- Tenders must be for a minimum of £100 nominal of Stock and for multiples of £100 as follows:

Amount of Stock tendered for	Minimum	Maximum
£100-£1,000	£100	£100
£1,000-£10,000	£100	£2,000
£10,000-£100,000	£100	£20,000
£100,000-£250,000	£100	£250,000
£250,000 or greater	£100	£25,000

THIS FORM MAY BE USED

TENDER FORM

This form must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (N.I.), Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 27th JANUARY 1984, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2EX not later than 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27th JANUARY, 1984.

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £300,000,000

2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1990

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

I/We tender in accordance with the terms of the prospectus dated 29th December 1983 in respect of the above-mentioned Stock tendered for, being a minimum of £100 and in a multiple of £100 as follows:

Amount of Stock tendered for	Multiple	AMOUNT OF STOCK
£100-£1,000	£100	£
£1,000-£10,000	£100	£
£10,000-£100,000	£100	£
£100,000-£250,000	£100	£
£250,000 or greater	£100	£

I/We warrant that any letter of allotment in respect of Stock allotted to me/us is to be sent by post at my/our risk to me/us at the address shown below.

Signature: _____
or, on behalf of, lender(s): _____

Date: _____

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

MR/MRS/MISS	FORENAMES IN FULL	SURNAME
FULL POSTAL ADDRESS:		
POST-TOWN	COUNTY	POSTCODE

T

A separate cheque must accompany each tender. Cheques must be made payable to the Bank of England and must be drawn on a bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Each tender must be for one amount and at one price which is a multiple of £100.

Thatcher's chicken for charity

By Kenneth Gosling

Thatcher's chicken for charity

Shadow of absent Andropov

Supreme Soviet soldiers on

From Richard Owen Moscow

As the Supreme Soviet ended its two-day winter session yesterday with no sign of President Andropov, the Kremlin launched a concerted campaign to divert attention from his absence and demonstrate that he is in full control.



His master's voice: Mr Boris Ponomarev delivering the foreign policy statement in President Andropov's absence.

There was no discussion of new laws governing labour discipline, however, and no keynote speech by a senior Kremlin leader on foreign policy.

In an attempt to give the impression that Mr Andropov remains firmly in charge the Soviet media yesterday gave only brief reports of the Supreme Soviet session, con-

viewers they had the opposite effect.

Informed sources suggested yesterday that the significance of Mr Andropov's absence from the Central Committee plenum on Monday and Tuesday, and from the Supreme Soviet which followed, had been exaggerated, since the Soviet leader had effectively dominated both meetings without being present.

Mr Andropov's speech in absentia on Monday has become the touchstone for all party and Government discussions this week in it Mr Andropov stringently criticized incompetence and inefficiency and called for higher productivity, more and better consumer goods and "the all round perfection of the entire mechanism of management."

Officials at the Supreme Soviet told correspondents that Mr Andropov was in hospital, and had suffered a temporary relapse after recovering from an unspecified illness. They said he was alert and following Government business closely. Diplomats were sceptical, however, noting that Mr Andropov had been absent for five months and had failed to reappear even when the Supreme Soviet session was delayed for one

month until the very end of the year. Mr Andropov is believed to have had kidney surgery, although officials denied this.

In speeches which referred repeatedly to Mr Andropov's Monday speech economic officials at the Supreme Soviet outlined a programme designed to yield an annual growth rate of four per cent, twice last year's rate, and a considerable improvement on the sluggish Brezhnev years.

Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, said Soviet defences would be strengthened, and announced a defence budget of just over 17bn roubles (\$15.45bn at the official exchange rate).

Mr Nikolai Baibakov, the head of the State Planning Committee said oil output would go up by five million tonnes and gas output by 43bn cubic metres. Both oil and gas production have been high this year and will increase in 1984 with western Siberia providing over half of the total.

US tightens security at home and abroad



Manning the barricades: Erecting security barriers on a pavement outside the White House.

Tough tactics to combat terror

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A fundamental reappraisal of American military tactics across the world is likely to emerge as a result of the critical Pentagon investigation into the Beirut suicide bombing, which killed 241 US soldiers on October 23.

President Reagan's reference to the new phenomenon of state-sponsored terrorism has surprised several commentators. As early as January, 1981, Mr Alexander Haig, Mr Reagan's first Secretary of State, cited international terrorism as America's principal foreign-policy concern.

For some time, the Pentagon has been working on ideas for quick-reaction anti-terrorist squad which could be deployed anywhere in the world, but progress has been slow. Most of the original impetus for such

an elite resulted from the bungled attempt to rescue the American hostages from the US Embassy in Tehran in 1980.

Praise is showered by the US military on Britain's Special Air Services, which, with its Israeli equivalent, is regarded as the best kind in the world. A similar group exists in America and almost certainly went ashore in Grenada before the invasion.

Its lack of success in gaining intelligence information was demonstrated by the failure of American troops to locate US students on the island for 36 hours after the main invasion. The under-estimation by the Americans of the extent of opposition was another indication of poor intelligence-gathering.

The US Army is severely stretched, with 40 per cent of

personnel abroad. After the Tehran debacle, a commission of inquiry under retired Admiral James Holloway made specific anti-terrorist recommendations not dissimilar to those from the present Pentagon team, headed by retired Admiral Robert Long. The Pentagon has therefore been considering the creation of a division of 10,000 men for "firearm" duties as in Grenada.

Attention is being focused on the inadequate intelligence operations in Beirut, cited by the Long commission. The White House blames the Carter Administration, which imposed strict curbs on the Central Intelligence Agency against spying on Americans abroad, carrying out assassinations and other anti-terrorist activities.

Lebanon was especially criticised although it has regained some ground under the Reagan Administration.

The Long commission said it's most important message was that terrorism had become "tantamount to an act of war" and that the US military was ill-equipped to fight it.

It is probable that the White House will recast American tactics in Lebanon as a priority, while reviewing tactics worldwide. The President, in hinting at tactical changes in Lebanon, acknowledged the inherent dangers of protecting Beirut Airport. "Airports just happen to be flat," he said.

Mr Reagan's spokesman yesterday insisted that US policy towards Lebanon will not be changed, despite the Long commission's assertion that there was an urgent need for reassessment.

Police call Walesa for questioning

Warsaw (Reuters) - Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader and Nobel peace prize winner, was questioned by Gdansk police yesterday about a meeting he held with underground Solidarity representatives which resulted in a call for public protests against food price increases.

Mr Walesa was questioned by police headquarters after finishing work as an electrician at the Lenin Shipyard.

His secret meeting with the banned union's clandestine National Coordinating Commission took place in November, after the Communist authorities proposed increases averaging between 10 per cent and 15 per cent.

The rises, due to take effect next month, have not yet been finalized because of stiff opposition from Poland's new official unions.

Mr Walesa and the underground leaders signed a statement saying it was Solidarity's obligation to organize strikes "in defence of people's interests".

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said this month that Mr Walesa would be summoned by the internal security services to "discuss the meeting, which needs some clarification".

Mr Walesa was called in for questioning in May, when he last disclosed that he had met the underground commission. No action was taken against Mr Walesa, who described the new summons as routine harassment.

Both Mr Walesa and the coordinating commission have attacked the food price proposals, and the rising level of criticism from official sources in Poland has raised doubts about how quickly the prices will be implemented.

Why America quit Unesco

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will have far-reaching implications both for Unesco itself and American relations with the whole United Nations system.

The decision to quit marks the culmination of a year-long study by the State Department of American participation in 96 international organizations.

Although the US has informed Señor Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, that it is not considering leaving the world body, its decision to withdraw from Unesco at the end of next year is intended as a clear signal that the US intends to be more assertive in defence of its interests in UN organizations in the future.

For Unesco, the American decision will have the dramatic effect of depriving it of one-quarter of its annual budget from 1985.

The US has traditionally been the single largest contributor to Unesco. US officials believe it will be hard, if not impossible, for the organization to make up this shortfall, despite assertions earlier this year by Mr Amador Mahtar Mbow, Unesco's director-general, that he would seek an international loan if the US pulled out.

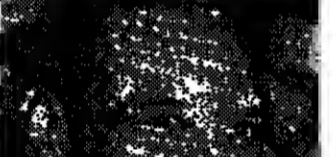
The Reagan Administration decided to single out Unesco for punitive action because its activities were considered the most contentious among UN agencies and the most inimical to American interests.

The main complaints against Unesco were of undue politicization with many of its decisions showing a pro-Soviet or anti-Western bias, budget mismanagement, and attempts

to restrict the freedom of the press.

Two issues which particularly angered the US were the temporary barring of Israel from Unesco activities during the mid-1970s and current attempts to establish a "new world information and communications order".

The US and other Western nations regard the "new order" as a way for governments,



Mr Mbow, Criticized by US as a big spender.

particularly those in the Soviet block and the Third World, to control what is written about their countries, both inside and outside their borders.

As the biggest contributor to Unesco's budget, the US has also been angered by what it regards as the appalling way the organization has been managed and administered.

Unlike other UN agencies, which have been held to zero growth, Mr Mbow has resisted efforts to curb spending. Earlier this year the US was the only country to vote against Unesco's 1984-85 budget of \$374 (£250m), which was more than 6 per cent higher than the previous year.

According to Mr Owen

Harries, until recently the Australian Ambassador to Unesco, writing in *The New York Times* last week: "Basic features of good management of programmes, comprehensible information about the budget, the effective allocation of resources, and adherence to proper procedures at meetings, are conspicuous by their absence."

Mr Harries was a leading contributor to a highly critical study of Unesco which the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think-tank, issued last October and which is said to have influenced the thinking of the Administration.

In this study Mr Harries wrote that "Unesco's activities are pretty constantly inimical to American interests and values". The organization was characterized by a "consistent and malignant anti-western bias".

Among other outspoken critics of Unesco who advocated an American withdrawal were the top State Department specialist dealing with international organizations, the American delegate to Unesco, conservative columnists, and the liberal *New York Times* and *Washington Post* newspapers.

One of the strongest attacks on Unesco came in a leading article in *The New York Times*, a paper normally supportive of the ideals of the UN.

Unesco, the paper claimed, had become "a babel of words notable for their mudslinging and dishonesty". It complained that communist delegates had overwhelmed the constructive purposes of Unesco's founders, so that every meeting had become an "anti-Western rally".

Leading article, page 11

Shamir rules out PLO deal

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government yesterday categorically ruled out the suggestion that last week's dramatic reconciliation between President Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader might lead to a widening of the Middle East peace process to involve the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The outright rejection of Egyptian hints to this effect was made both by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr David Kimche, the influential Director-General of the Foreign Ministry. Significantly, it came during the first visit to Israel of a senior Egyptian delegation since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon 18 months ago.

Mr Shamir reiterated Israel's determination to stick rigidly to the line agreed at Camp David, and called on Egypt to revive the long-stalled talks on autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's "regret and astonishment" at last week's Cairo rapprochement with Mr Arafat restated forcefully during more than seven hours of talks held yesterday in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. According to one source, nearly the whole time was taken up by Israel listing point by point its bitter complaints about the poor state of Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Yesterday's talks, reported to have been prompted by the

urgency of the peace process, the official told reporters. "They are not and will not be our partners in the peace process, either directly or indirectly."

The main purpose of Israel's unbending stand appeared to be to tell Washington that there was no chance of bringing the PLO even at half remove to the negotiating table with Israel.

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Yesterday's talks, reported to have been prompted by the

Grenada reprieves hit squad

St George's, Grenada (Reuters) - Four men sentenced to hang for attempting to assassinate the former Grenada Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, in June, 1980, have been pardoned by Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General.

Mr Bishop was at a rally, just outside St George's, sponsored by his People's Revolutionary Government when a bomb placed under the speaker's platform went off. He was uninjured but three girls were killed.

Boy PoWs to learn again

Geneva - More than 400 Iranian boys, the majority between 13 and 16, who are being held as PoWs at the Ramadi Camp, north of Baghdad, are to be allowed to resume their education under the direction of teachers who are refugees in Western Europe (Alan McGregor writes).

Teachers, volunteering to spend at least six months at the camp, will be assisted by undergraduates from among the 7,500 Iranian PoWs in Iraq.

Nation mourns

Harare (AP) - Flags around Zimbabwe will fly at half-mast today and tomorrow, declared days of national mourning for the 37 victims of the country's worst rail disaster. At least 214 people were injured when the train plunged down an embankment on Christmas Eve.

Sex ruling

Chicago (NYT) - A federal judge found Eastern Airlines guilty of sex discrimination and ordered it to reinstate a pilot who had a sex change. The airline claimed Mr Kenneth Ulane, now Karen Ulane, had been a safety hazard on the flight deck.

Lucky couple

Harare (AP) - Three months after Barbara Bulling won the top £30,000 prize in Zimbabwe's monthly state lottery, her husband, Steve, won the £50,000 prize in the state lottery's Christmas draw.

Beauty bungler

Peking (Reuters) - A Shanghai youth who posed as a plastic surgeon seriously disfigured several women in medical operations. *The Liberation Army* newspaper reported that Yuan Lushan was detained after being accused of giving his "patients" Western-style eyes and noses.

Correction

The imbalance of trade between East and West Germany in 1983 will be about DM 800m in West Germany's favour, not DM 5,000m as stated yesterday.

Beach Boy drowns in marina dive

From Ivor Davis Los Angeles

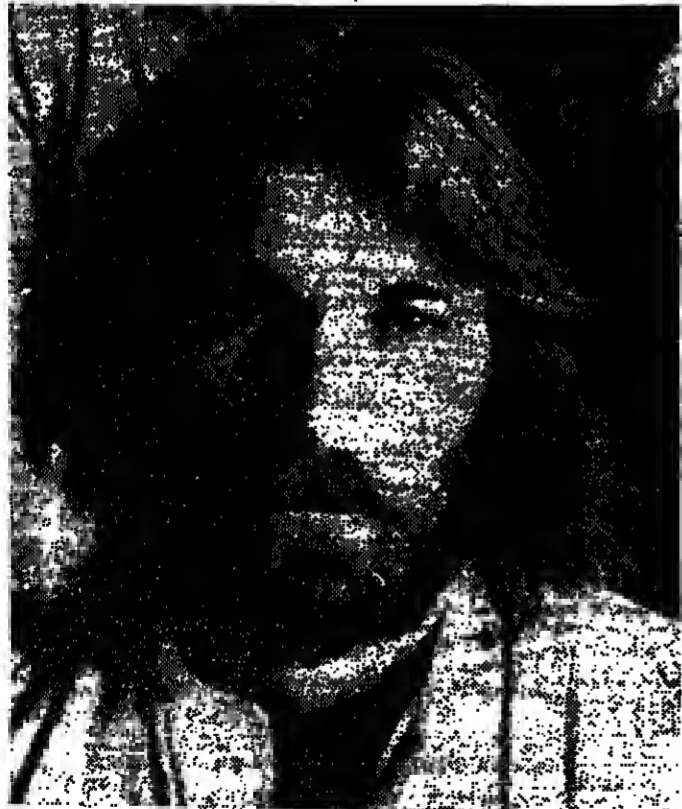
Dennis Wilson, the drummer and founding member of one of America's most successful pop groups, the Beach Boys, drowned after diving off a quay at a marina near Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Wilson, aged 39, was one of three brothers who were the nucleus of the turbulent group that made "surf music" popular and gave southern California its own rock identity in the early 1960s.

A friend called the harbour patrol after Wilson failed to surface. A rescue diver found him lying face down in about 12ft of water.

Wilson had been diving into the murky water to retrieve "some old chairs and junk". Officials would not speculate on the cause of death, although one witness said Wilson may have surfaced under the quay and struck his head.

They changed their name to Beach Boys and rode the crest of the California surfing craze. Over the next two decades the group recorded 35 albums, 15 of them gold. They were best remembered for hits including "Surfer's Surf", "California Girls" and "Good Vibrations".



Dennis Wilson: Drowned while "diving for junk".

Main Heineken kidnap suspect gives himself up

Amsterdam (Reuters) - A main suspect in the kidnapping of Mr Freddie Heineken, the brewery chairman, has surrendered.

A police reported yesterday. A police spokesman said Mr Frans Meijer, who is 30 and one of three leading suspects sought, went to police headquarters on Wednesday night and said he was sorry for his part in the kidnapping of Mr Heineken and his chauffeur outside the brewery offices on November 9. The two were rescued by police from an Amsterdam warehouse on November 30.

According to the police, Mr Meijer, who recently sent letters to an Amsterdam newspaper and the police saying he wanted to surrender.

Two men, arrested after the brewery paid a ransom of just over £7m two days before the Heineken was found, are still in custody.

Argentina digs up its past

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Argentine courts are literally digging up their country's bloody past as judicially-ordered exhumations of mass graves in several cemeteries have in the past week yielded the bodies of more than 30 presumed victims of security forces.

The exhumations are part of a wave of court investigations into the fate of more than 6,000 Argentines who vanished during the past seven years of recently-concluded military rule.

Acting with vigour after the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsín's civilian administration on December 10, the courts have had graves dug up in the Buenos Aires suburbs of Almirante Brown, Olivos and in the city of La Plata near by. Judging by the immediate

results of the investigations and growing calls for inquiries at other graveyards, it would seem the courts have only begun to scratch the surface on burials during the "dirty war" against terrorists.

The Mayor of Almirante Brown revealed on Tuesday that 14 of the 15 bodies exhumed in his city were without hands, evidently, cut off he said, to prevent identification.

He said three of the skulls exhumed had gunshot holes in them, while many skulls showed signs of having received severe beatings. He estimated that the cemetery would yield between 60 and 70 similarly-buried bodies.

The newly-elected mayor of the northern Buenos Aires suburb of San Isidro said on

Wednesday that 41 more unidentified bodies of Argentines "killed in confrontations with security forces" were concealed in mass graves in a local cemetery.

Television, which was heavily censored under military rule, has been replete with graphic reporting of the exhumations. News reports this week included footage of graveyard workers packing large plastic bags with bones and taking them for identification.

Most bodies found so far in these and earlier exhumations have been discovered in groups of about a half dozen in paupers' graves or beneath legal graves.

The exhumations are not the only sign of a new willingness to strip away the secrecy surrounding the "dirty war".

Jackson ignores Reagan and goes to Syria

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

The Rev Jesse Jackson, one of eight Democratic presidential candidates, left New York for Damascus yesterday to seek the release of a captured American airman despite misgivings expressed by President Reagan.

He claimed to have been assured that he would meet President Hariz al-Assad of Syria.

Navy Lieutenant Robert Goodman, has been held captive since his A6E Intruder was shot down over Lebanon on December 4.

Rev Jackson said his repeated attempts to reach President Reagan, who had given a warning that the trip might be counter-productive, were fruitless both yesterday and on Wednesday.

Police Tho may German Freed Un land in J How

Police inefficiency means Thornhill saboteurs may never be identified

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The last three Zimbabwe Air Force officers involved in the Thornhill sabotage case are due to arrive in Britain this morning. The release of all the officers implicated by Mr Robert Mugabe's Government is the closest thing to an admission that they were innocent of complicity - sabotage in an investigation which went disastrously wrong.

The identity of whoever was responsible for placing explosives in a dozen fighter aircraft which blew up at Zimbabwe's main air base on July 25, 1982, may never become public knowledge.

Speculation has turned on diverse theories - that the operation was carried out by embittered former Rhodesians, by South Africans, by members of the minority Zippa faction in the armed forces, even that it was executed by members of a radical black military group who saw an opportunity to destroy the last remaining section of the armed forces controlled by whites.

The evidence which might have proved the case one way or another has been lost, abandoned in an investigation by incompetent police officers who decided at an early stage, for reasons which remain unclear, that they had to prove a conspiracy by senior white officers and tortured convenient suspects until they made false confessions.

Evidence gathered by the Air Force board of inquiry, which was abandoned after the arrest of two of its members, could have proved crucial if followed up in the police investigation. It included threads of fabric found at a spot where a hole had been cut in the security fence around Thornhill which was ignored by forensic investigators. This and other aspects of the case, such as the behaviour of some ex-Zippa personnel at the base, remain unexplained.

The final phase of the 17-month saga started on the evening of August 31. The officers were back in their cells at Chikurubi prison, having experienced only brief elation at their acquittal that day by the High Court before being served with new detention orders.

The two most senior men, Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slater and Air Commodore Philip Pile - both of whom had been projected as future commanders of the Air Force - were visited by intermediaries who offered them on behalf of the Government immediate freedom, provided they left Zimbabwe for Britain that night.

At first they refused, saying they would not go until their brother officers were released and the Government had guaranteed all pension payments owing to them. But after negotiations over the next week, involving government officials, diplomats of the British High Commission and lawyers, in which verbal assurances on both points were given, they flew out of Harare on September 9.

A few days later Wing Commander Peter Briscoe, also London-bound, in November Air Lieutenant Nigel Lewis-Walker, who was never brought to trial, was also allowed to leave. Finally, last week Wing Commander John Cox, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir were freed and given a week to clear up their affairs before leaving.

The new arrivals will dis-

cover that not all has gone smoothly for their colleagues in Britain. Air Vice-Marshal Slater, his wife and two children have been living with friends for more than three months, his consignment being from social security payments. He still has not received any of the £180,000 he is owed in pension, but he has now been offered a job.

Air Commodore Pile is owed even more in pension and is still without a job. Wing Commander Briscoe left Britain for the United States last week, having failed to find work. Air Lieutenant Lewis-Walker is hoping to join the RAF but must wait a statutory period before he qualifies.

The officers have undergone personality changes as a result of their ordeal. During the months in detention, they and their families found strength through faith and came to feel strongly about other detainees, mainly blacks, whom they met in Chikurubi.

With the release of the last airmen, the affair can be expected to pass into history, which will please both the British and Zimbabwe Governments, which have been troubled by the strain it has imposed on their relations.

But the long-term effect has been on the Air Force itself, where the consequences have been little short of disastrous. The treatment of the officers has provoked a mass exodus of skilled administrative, flying and maintenance personnel, and senior officers are still resigning. The aircraft sabotaged at Thornhill will be replaced in the next eight months, but the Zimbabwe Air Force will never be the same.



Family favourites: Mrs Gandhi giving her son Rajiv a few political pointers at the Congress meeting in Calcutta

Rajiv Gandhi hammers the left

From Michael Hamlyn, Calcutta

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the son of the Indian Prime Minister, made his first important speech in a plenary session of the Indian Congress Party last night and revealed himself as a scourge of the left.

Although the Congress conference has been particularly gentle in its criticisms of the Communist-led Government of West Bengal, Mr Gandhi made no bones about directly accusing them of inefficiency and even peculation.

Mr Gandhi's speech was awaited eagerly by the conference delegates, who have been encouraged to think of him as tomorrow's star by a stunning publicity campaign round Calcutta, where the meeting is being held. They packed the indoor stadium to sit cross-legged on mattresses spread across the floor. Several thousand more filled the galleries.

His mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi, sat on a cushion on the rostrum, surrounded by cross-legged dignitaries of the party, and hardly looked at him while he spoke. At first she busied herself with papers on her desk, and after gazed at the audience thoughtfully.

Mr Gandhi, who is younger and better-looking than his photographs suggest, spoke gently and slowly in Hindi, with few gestures and a number of ironic lines that brought a laugh. He was cheered many times with cries of "Rajiv Gandhi Sindhabad". As soon as he was finished speaking, almost the entire hall emptied, leaving a vestigial audience for the rest of the speakers in the debate.

Mr Gandhi has been having a few verbal brushes with the Communist Party (Marxist) Chief Minister of West Bengal - of which Calcutta is the capital - since he arrived in the city on Monday. When he visited a highly disorganized and overcrowded exhibition on Tuesday, he was heard to observe that West Bengal could use some discipline.

The word he used, *anushthan*, was held to be somewhat unfortunate, as Mrs Gandhi's emergency need to be described as the *anushthan paribha*, the "discipline Stage" of India's development.

He brought a riposte from Mr Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister, who referred patronizingly to him as "still an apprentice". Yesterday Mr Gandhi had his revenge, directing the main thrust of his speech at Mr Basu's Government.

He said that Mr Basu complained that not enough money was granted to West Bengal and that not enough industry was set there. Mr Gandhi declared that the money that the left-wing Government borrowed was not used, as in other states, to develop current projects but to fund previous borrowing. In any case the money was not spent on useful operations and was frittered away and even given to Communist officials.

Industrial licences had been granted to companies in come to West Bengal, Mr Gandhi added, but they would not come until labour relations and electricity supply could be sorted out. Of an installed capacity of 1840 megawatts, the state was

able only to generate 750 megawatts. "We seem to have plenty of light in here," he observed, "but there are plenty of dark places outside."

Earlier in the day Mrs Gandhi had kept the packed stadium quiet while outlining her political philosophy in a long statement of introduction to the opening of the actual plenary session. All that had happened earlier this week had been preparation for these two days.

She departed from her prepared text on a number of occasions to emphasize her commitment to socialism and the left-leaning way of doing things. She particularly emphasized her actions in the last leading up to the nationalization of the banks, on which issue she first split Congress. She insisted nationalization must go further.

"We did not nationalize the banks because we wanted to win elections," she said. "We had been trying to make them serve the people for years and years. We don't want them to break any rules now, but if the rules are obstructing them, then we must change the rules."

Mrs Gandhi explained the lack of progress towards a socialist society by saying that the crisis of development was basically due to the forces of the status quo. She added: "Delegates will remember those who wanted to take the country in a socialist direction were obstructed." She blamed the failure to overcome right-wing elements on the socialists who left Congress instead of staying in the party to help her fight.

China two years up on output targets

Peking (Reuters) - China has achieved its 1985 production targets two years early, Mr Song Ping, the chief state planning commissioner, reported yesterday.

Final results for this year in terms of gross value of agricultural and industrial production would show that China had already reached a target set for the end of the current five-year state plan (1981-85), Mr Song said.

Industrial growth was expected to accelerate to about 10 per cent this year from 7.7 per cent in 1982. Total retail sales would rise by 10 per cent.

Mr Song also raised China's estimated 1983 grain production to 20 million tonnes more than the 353.43 million produced in 1982.

The annual average growth rate in the first three years of the current five-year plan would be 7.2 per cent. This greatly exceeded the 4 per cent official target now viewed as too conservative and tipped to be raised for the next plan.

Mr Song added that China had reversed some of the previous worrying falls in state revenues and the 1983 budget would be basically balanced.

Both Western economists and official Chinese statements attribute China's economic success this year, following hard upon last year's record achievements, to a restructuring of the economy under the influence of Mr Deng Xiaoping. China's older statesman. Both have also pointed out the shortcomings and problems inherent in that success.

An unquantifiable but large proportion of the growth of the past few years has been simply the result of an abused economy retooling its muscles on slack capacity.

An attempt to devolve more economic responsibility and introduce profit incentives in a system accustomed to rigid and stifling central control has released internal economic imbalances which are as yet unresolved.

Mr Song's speech mentioned friction between demand for state funds for key development projects and an insatiable appetite of localities for money for building projects which increase the burden on China's limited infrastructure.

A problem not mentioned by him but of abiding concern to China's best economic brains, is the distorted price system.

Bonn faces 'hot spring' of discontent

German unions want hours cut

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

While thousands of British factories remained idle over the long Christmas close-down, West German industry has been working normally this week, with only one day off for Christmas.

But the question of how many hours a German worker should put in at his factory is fast becoming a vexed political issue. Both trade unions and employers are deeply divided over a proposal that has been widely touted as a remedy for West Germany's unusually high level of unemployment: a cut in the normal working week to 35 hours.

The Trade Union Federation sees this reduction from the 40-hour week as an immediate and effective step to create more jobs and bring down unemployment, which stands at more than two million.

Employers and the Government, however, say that such a change, without any corresponding loss of pay, would bankrupt many firms and is a recipe for yet more unemployment.

The 35-hour week is likely to be the main point of argument in the coming round of 1984 pay talks. Already both sides have dug in their heels.

Herr Ernst Breit, leader of the Trade Union Federation, has forecast a "hot spring" of protests if the Government does not respond to calls for a five-hour cut in the working week. He says workers have already paid in advance for 1984, making a drop in real earnings of 3.5 per cent over the past three years.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl calls the proposal "absurd and stupid", and said just before Christmas that he would not be shaken by the threat of strikes. The German economy could not cope with a 35-hour week.

Herr Alfred Dregger, the Christian Democratic floor leader, said the demand was "irresponsible". It amounted to adding six weeks to each worker's holiday.

Employers say that German industry cannot afford to cut working time as this would push up costs and make German goods less competitive. Japan would immediately take advantage of the drop in the export market. The Government employment bureau has estimated that the change would amount to a wage increase of 12.6 per cent for each worker.

But the trade unions, increasingly concerned about redundancies, are insisting on the change, pointing out that the working week has remained at 40 hours since 1967. IG Metall, the country's largest union, which negotiates on behalf of 3,800,000 workers in the steel and engineering industry, is taking the lead, as usual, and has threatened strikes in the spring.

The stricken steel industry, struggling to keep alive, is demanding it firmly against the change. It says costs would rise by 18 per cent, and this could be afforded only if the union accepted no pay increase for the next seven years.

Experts are divided on how many new jobs the cuts would make. Estimates range from a mere 60,000 to around one million. The Trade Union Federation, even after allowing for higher productivity, puts the figure at around 1,400,000.

Politicians are particularly fearful lest the issue becomes unemotive and destroys the corner-stone on which West German prosperity has been built.

Herr Heiner Geissler, the Christian Democratic Party secretary, gave a warning recently of "them and us" thinking and a return to the class struggle. The trade unions themselves have welcomed suggestions that independent arbitrators look at the issue dispassionately.

The Government has responded to the proposal with early retirement at 59. This, it believes, is more attractive to workers and economically sounder. It thinks that, in conjunction with more flexible working hours - which it also recommends - the offer will undermine support for the 35-hour week and so avert any unwelcome strikes.



Herr Dregger: It would be 'irresponsible'.



Herr Geissler: A return to the class struggle.

Freed Unita hostages land in Johannesburg

Johannesburg (Reuters) - A total of 26 former hostages of the Angolan guerrilla movement, Unita, freed on Wednesday under a Christmas amnesty, flew yesterday to South Africa, a Red Cross spokesman said.

There were 21 Portuguese, two Spaniards, a Brazilian, a Uruguayan and a Cape Verdean. Six were missionaries.

The spokesman said a number of prisoners of other nationalities, including Czechoslovaks, remained in Unita bands.

Unita, which is fighting the Marxist Government in Luanda, released the prisoners in what it described as a goodwill gesture for Christmas.

It said last weekend it was freeing all foreign captives except the Czechoslovaks

China jails two prelates for ordaining priests

The Chinese authorities have jailed two prelates in charge of the Paoing diocese, according to Vatican Radio.

Mgr Joseph Fan Xueyan, the Bishop of Paoing, aged 76, was accused of having secretly ordained priests and bishops. He was sentenced to 10 years.

A similar sentence was passed on Mgr Huo Pin Chang, his Vicar-General.



Food fever: Bargain-hunters in central Tokyo jostling for the special delicacies needed to celebrate the Japanese New Year.

Football fan had grenade

Milan (AFP) - An Italian football supporter, arrested for an attack on a rival Austrian fan after a UEFA Cup clash here this month, was given a 19-month prison sentence yesterday and fined about £660 for possessing weapons, including an anti-tank grenade.

Zia's wife says no to husband's legal reforms

Islamabad (AFP) - The wife of General Zia ul-Haq, the Pakistani leader, says she is against the legal reforms proposed by her husband which would enforce Islamic rules on court evidence offered by women.

Miró buried in Catalan birthplace

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Jean Miró, the Catalan abstract painter, who died on Christmas Day, was buried yesterday in Barcelona's Montjuïc cemetery in what was almost a state funeral.

Troops in Afghanistan 'on drugs'

Vienna (AP) - A Soviet soldier who deserted to join insurgents in Afghanistan alleged in an interview published yesterday that drug use was common and morale low among his former comrades.

How Castro has created a welfare state to be envied

Havana (Reuters) - Even Fidel Castro's harshest critics would have difficulty in belittling the progress made by Cuba's revolution, 25 years old on January 1, in creating a welfare state worthy of a much richer country.

A guarantee to free education and public health services has been one of the main goals of Cuba's Communist Government which inherited a far different society when Dr Castro's guerrilla army took power in 1959.

Official statistics, backed by United Nations specialists working here, illustrate the transformation that has taken place in this tropical, largely agricultural island.

The average life expectancy of a Cuban born in the 1950s was around 50 compared with 73 today, while infant mortality has been slashed from about 60 per 1,000 live births to 16. Inoculation campaigns and improved diet, sanitation and living conditions have all but eliminated diseases which still wreak havoc in most Third World countries. No cases of polio, malaria, diphtheria or infantile tetanus, ailments which once killed thousands of Cuban youngsters, have been registered in the past decade.

Cradle-to-grave social benefits ensure that even the poorest families do not go hungry and have equal access to medical treatment and schooling. Government spending on education and health takes up more than 20 per cent of the national budget. The number of hospitals and doctors has tripled and the new Hermanos Ameijeiras hospital in central Havana is symbolic of the authorities' near obsession with providing the best in medical treatment.

It stands 20 storeys high and would look more at home in a wealthy district of New York or Los Angeles than in the decaying part of the capital it overshadows. The first patients, including the wounded from the recent US-led invasion of Grenada, began to move in this year.

The 1,000-bed hospital's equipment includes a million-dollar body scan and a computerized administrative and records service. "The facilities and attention here could hardly be bettered anywhere," according to Mr Adres Pasquiere, the visiting International Red Cross delegate-general.

The Salvador Allende primary school in Alamar, east of here, is used as a showpiece for foreigners to mar but is not untypical of schools that have sprung up in the past 25 years. More than 1,000 children, all in neat maroon uniforms, attend the school named after Chile's late Marxist President. Patriotic and Communist teaching play a large part in the daily routine beneath revolutionary slogans and pictures of such "martyrs" as Ernesto "Che" Guevara, the dead guerrilla leader.

The sports facilities are modern but much of the teaching would appear old-fashioned to visitors. They are often struck by the parrot-like responses of the children instilled with the notion of collective, rather than individual, mentality.

The emphasis on manual labour is another striking aspect of education. Part of the Allende school acts as a medicine-making plant where the children work a few hours a day.

"The old idea that the pursuit of academic excellence releases you from your obligations to help the economy... has to be forgotten," an Education Ministry official said. The concept of patriotic duty is fundamental to schooling and the 200,000 students in higher education are obliged to "repay" the state through work in isolated regions or abroad.

About 14,000 foreign students are in Cuba on free courses which, the Government emphasizes, are to train them in technical skills useful to their own countries and not guerrilla subversion, as is alleged by many Western governments.

Zia's wife says no to husband's legal reforms

In an interview published in a Karachi newspaper on Wednesday, Mrs Zia said a court should consider a woman's testimony as equal to that of a man.

Under changes proposed by General Zia, two women would have to testify in order to counter-balance one male witness. Mrs Zia said, she would try to convince her husband of her argument.

Muslim committees have been preparing the law of evidence - a cornerstone of General Zia's plans for legal reforms - for the past two years, but its enactment was postponed several times this year on a number of grounds. Wide-spread opposition by educated women could force the military government to drop the proposal, observers thought.

Miró buried in Catalan birthplace

The last rites were as the painter had instructed, celebrated "by intelligent priests in the Catalan language".

Four members of the Cabinet, headed by Deputy Prime Minister, were among those who filed the Our Lady of the sea Gothic church for the funeral service. The city where Miró was born had declared three days of mourning.

The crowds were not only paying their respects to a great painter, but also honouring a Catalan remembered for never collaborating with the Franco regime. Instead, he lived quietly for many years in Majorca.

Miró's relatives agreed not to respect his wish for a private funeral, expressed 13 years before when the dictator was still alive.

Señor Jordi Pujol, the Catalan Chief Minister, convinced them that Miró, who like Picasso, sympathized with the Republican side during the Civil War, had, since 1975, identified himself with Catalonia, which had recovered democracy and self-rule.

The interview was given recently, the newspaper said, without saying where Naumov was or providing other details.

"Man soldiers take hashish," he said, commenting on reports of widespread use of hashish and other drugs among Soviet troops. "The officers themselves offer the soldiers a shot or a sniff before the shooting begins."

The hospitals are filled to overflowing, not only here in Afghanistan but also in Soviet Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan and other provinces. All of this is not well known. The army leadership keeps it secret.

Albanian onslaught: Commenting on the fourth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Albania accused its erstwhile ally of "fascist aggression, perfidy and treachery", in a dispatch by the state-run ATA news agency (AP reports).

SPECTRUM

The Chalkhill council estate in Brent, once a model of good housing, is now a violent, rubbish-strewn hell. John Witherow and Brian Harris spent 24 hours there.

A day in the life of Chalkhill



Brian Harris

Dawn. The estate is deserted except for a few figures who walk down paths hunched against the cold. An old man comes up and offers directions. "This is a terrible place", he confides. "My wife and I want to move to Hemel Hempstead." It is a common yearning on Chalkhill.

We try the walkways. There are more than three miles of them, linking the buildings on three levels. The architects thought of them as pathways in the sky, but to residents they are narrow and murky, hiding places for the junkies, muggers or pranksters. Walls are sprayed with graffiti.

From the fourth floor we can see Wembley stadium, and in the distance the Post Office tower. Below us litter swirls in eddies between the buildings. Despite its reputation Chalkhill seems curiously sedate. The grass is neatly cut, the outside of the buildings clean, and the signs of vandalism not obvious.

We walk round a corner and find a door smashed. Next door someone has hung a sign: "Smile, God loves you".

8.30am. Our first mugging. We are looking at a Rastafarian mural of the Lion of Judah when there are shouts and the sound of breaking glass. By the time we arrive we find a man slumped against a wall and a tall figure disappearing into the gloom.

Hasmukh is shaking, holding a broken bottle in his hand. One or two heads pop out of doorways but they

soon disappear. Hasmukh points at a plastic bottle of orange squash on a trolley from which he has been delivering milk, sliced bread and cool drinks. "He tried to take this but I wouldn't let him. He hit me so I smashed the bottle against the wall. I know him. He tried to rob me three days ago. No, I don't tell police because he will come back and hit me again." Most crimes go unreported for fear of retribution.

Some people decide to give their second names and talk darkly of becoming "marked" if they complain of vandalism or intimidation.

9.15am. We meet Gwendoline waiting for one of the few lifts that work. She has lived there for 14 years and seen Chalkhill transformed from the feather in the council's cap to a stone in its boot. Gwendoline has plenty of horror stories of estate life. "I've had all sorts of things thrown at me. One bit of wood missed me by inches. I've had stones fired at me from catapults. Some time ago I came across a young man weeing against a wall. I said, 'What are you doing?' And do you know, dear, he just turned around and sprayed all over me."

"You get gangs of 30 or 40 rushing up and down the walkways. Two thirds of the people here are decent and courteous, whatever their colour or creed. But the rest... oh dear. They just don't care. We don't go out any more at night, dear. Just two doors from us an Asian man was attacked and there was a man knifed in the lift."

10.00am. We wander into one of half-a-dozen shops on the estate to buy some apples. Posters for latest films including *Angel Warriors* (It was her blood... oow it's his war) and *Bronx Warriors 2* (they're back and out for blood) block the view of yams, sweet potatoes and sorrel. Jim, the owner, moved into videos to supplement meagre takings from vegetables. He says his most popular films are *Demented* and *First Blood*.

"Most of the people around here like violence - violence and horror", he says with a curious laugh. "But my videos aren't enough for them. They want films where they can see the axe going into the head... slow motion, huh, huh, huh". To deter burglars Jim sleeps in the back of his shop and boards up the windows at night. "This estate has become a drinkers' and junkies' paradise", he says, with a curious mixture of despair and pride that he should be living in such a hell-hole. "You've got some real Cadburys here, huh, huh, huh". As if on cue a youth with strange spiky hair lurches past the window muttering to himself.

Jim is keen to paint a gloomy picture of life on the estate. "You should call this the concrete jungle, because that's what it is. This place is a dump. The council slung in all the problem families, making one big problem. You never get the TV licence people coming. They came four years ago and they ain't been back. The kids gave them hell - threw bottles at them and that sort of thing."

"It's quiet now because no-one moves before midday. If it's raining they wait until one o'clock. After that anything can happen." We tell Jim of the attempted mugging. He nods knowingly and says: "That's nothing. You wait until tonight". We shift uneasily.

I know him. I don't tell police because he will come back and hit me again

11.30am. After breakfast at a Wimpy's we meet our first policeman. Acting Chief Superintendent Alan Standsby, the man responsible for policing Chalkhill, is large and thoughtful and endlessly energetic. While residents are eager to portray the dark side of the estate, he is an optimist.

The situation, he says, has got better since the murder, that of Seema Devani, last year. The police raided several homes and found the proceeds of five robberies and 20 weapons, mostly knives. He produces a chart to show that while burglary is about average for Brent, the number of muggings are four or five times higher than for the rest of the borough. Last November he put in 40 undercover policemen to watch the estate covertly for two weekends. So good is the anteaone for police on Chalkhill, however, that some of the policemen were quickly "rumbled".

They made 11 arrests, and also saw incidents that were never reported, such as the elderly Asian man being followed by about 15 youths who pushed and spat on him. Supt Standsby has increased policing of the estate but he still gets complaints from both sides. "I went to a meeting where one man got up and demanded more policemen", he says. "No sooner had he sat down than another man got up and said he didn't want his children contaminated by talking to policemen."

He believes the real troublemakers are a small group of between 20 and 30 youths out of the 6,000 to 7,000 people living on Chalkhill. We tell him we are spending the night on the estate and he advises us to park out car some distance away. "Nice for you to have something to return to", he says.

1.30pm. I try to make a telephone call in a call box that has had all its glass smashed and is propped up by scaffolding poles. As I leave 10p in the slot a small boy aged about eight runs up, grabs the coin and disappears. I reverse the charges.

2.00pm. A man in the estate's office says that mugging has increased in the past three years because of unemployment. The estate was designed to be one of the biggest and best in Europe. The original drawings even had pictures of helicopters ferrying residents from the roof. There are numerous notices in the office requesting exchanges. One asks for "a 2 or 3-bedroom flat anywhere in Brent except Chalkhill or Stonebridge". Stonebridge is a nearby estate acquiring a reputation as forbidding as Chalkhill's.

2.15pm. Daddy Malo bounds up. He is dressed in big tortoiseshell spectacles, a patterned pullover and neat jeans. "I'm a gangster. If you don't leave I'll cut your head off. I'm real wicked. Unless you pay me you're in real trouble. You better get out of here." At first it's hard to tell if he's joking so we tell him we have no money. "Hey man, he's not joking. He means it", advises someone from a group watching Daddy Malo dance around us.

We try to change the subject. What is it like living on an estate known as a "muggers' paradise"? "That's a load of bull", snorts Daddy Malo. "It used to be a lot worse but it's cleared up now. They know who the daddies are around here." The group nods. "Tell him about that policeman", one says. "Yeah, there was this big problem with a racist police officer called Ginger", continues Daddy Malo. "When he got hold of a nigger he kicked his head in and then used an iron bar. But he got jumped by about five black boys a long time ago and suffered a great deal of injury. He's not coming back."

With no hope of extracting money for what he says is a "sensational story", Daddy Malo gets bored. He declines to be photographed and lopes off down the corridor with his friends, casually hurling insults. We wonder if this is the first of the gangs we'll meet and if they'll be so friendly at midnight. We return to the car and remove all but a few pounds from our wallets and hide it in a sock under a seat.

I love my flat. If only I could cut it out and put it somewhere else.

3.30pm. PC Dave Rundle and PC Gerald McNamara are patrolling Chalkhill until 10pm. PC Rundle, who is 21, looks completely unflappable and has been on the estate beat for five months. "We get a mixed reaction", he says. "Some of the young guys shout at us or spit. There are some nasty characters about but by the time they're 21 they either cool down or go on to bigger things." PC McNamara was in a panda car hit by a door thrown from above. After that we spend most of our time glancing up at the walkways.

4.00pm. Tea at Gwendoline's. The flat is comfortable with a view of Wembley stadium. "I love my flat", she says. "If only I could cut it out and put it somewhere else." Outside we continue our voyage of exploration. It's getting dark and the corridors are more menacing. There is no one around so we knock on some doors. A man opens his, stares at us, open-mouthed, and then slams it.

An Irish mother of six is happy to chat. "There is nothing wrong living here" she says. Two men open another door. "This place is like the Dead Sea, man", one says. If he goes out to meet a girl he doesn't say he's from Chalkhill, because she may refuse to come back with him.

There is a siren blast and they run off. We feel safer with the police gone

10.40pm. A police van pulls up and four men pile out. We follow two of them as they check out the walkways. Their arrival is heralded by high-pitched whistling from the estate gangs. A single woman walks past below. The policemen nudge one another and one says "Brave woman", largely, I suspect, for our benefit.

The two others, join us and say they've "turfed out" about a dozen youths from a walkway where they were hanging around. "They'll be back when we've gone." The police seem to like the potential danger and are prone to dramatize. There is a sudden sharp blast on the van's siren and they run off. We feel safer with the police gone.

12.30am. The estate remains deserted. The only sound is some muffled rock music and caterwauling. One of the policemen had said a small girl had told them we were plainclothes police. Perhaps our presence is deterring crime. Or perhaps the cold and the rain is.

2.00am. No-one stirs, beyond two resentful cats being forcibly ejected.

2.45am. Another fruitless sortie. Not a sign of the wild parties and gangs of roaming muggers. Maybe they only come out on warm nights. Our sense of foreboding is beginning to evaporate and we get confident, wandering down corridors, careless whether our presence is known. The council is trying to prevent gangs running down walkways and is spending £1.5m on sealing each one off, so that a group of about 10 flats become self-contained in one corridor. The first ones quickly had the doors kicked down but the council is slowly winning.

4.30am. After a short sleep we again take to the walkways in the sky. Nothing. No sign of the police, gangs, lone muggers or granny victims. Just cats and rain. We walk fast to keep warm. Return to car.

6.30am. Chalkhill is stirring reluctantly. Figures walk steadfastly towards bus stops and the railway station. We meet Hasmukh on his milk round. He is much brighter this morning and introduces us to his friend also called Hasmukh. They laugh about the previous day's incident. Hasmukh's wife stands in the doorway surrounded by dozens of packets of milk. Is Hasmukh worried that he will meet his attacker again? "No, oo", he says quickly. "This time I'm sure it will be all right."

moreover... Miles Kington

There is a picture hanging in the Photographers Gallery in Great Newport Street called "Christmas Dinner, South London, 1982". It shows a poor woman and two children eating nothing but sausage and beans, and when I saw it last week I felt as depressed and guilty as you do after reading the *Guardian*, which of course is exactly what I was intended to feel. It occurred to me at the time that less than a week later, at Christmas Day lunchtime, I would get much less to eat than that, and that nobody would feel sorry for me.

Things started pretty well. We had gone to stay with my brother in Devon - four of us, four of them, very domestic, no trouble with the washing up rota etc. He lives on top of Dartmoor. If any of my readers is reading this in the prison nearby and decides to escape later, he will see my brother's house near enough if he heads eastwards. Anyway, supper on the first evening was all local produce - oysters and mussels from the River Dart. Have you ever opened oysters? I never had. What you do is insert a knife and twist it, and a little flake of shell comes off. Then you put the blade in somewhere else, twist it again, and another fragment of shell comes off. Then you stick the blade in deeper elsewhere, twist it more sharply and the blade comes off. Then, when you have run out of knives, you apply small hand grenades to one end of the oyster. This just about does the trick, and after about two hours you have a dish of open oysters and a wrecked kitchen. The oysters were delicious. There weren't a great many per person, but we still had Christmas lunch to look forward to.

The next day, Christmas Eve, we had wild duck for supper. Have you ever plucked a duck? I never had. What you do is sit with the duck on your lap and pull the feathers out until you are surrounded by a pile of down 2ft high. This means you have almost completed one wing.

It is astonishing, by the way, that ducks, who spend most of their lives flying around, do not build up mighty wing muscles in the way that ballet dancers have thighs like balloons or tennis players have one hand four sizes larger than the other. But I regret to report that under all those feathers a duck wing looks as puny as a garter with the elastic gone. Perhaps ducks fly with their stomach muscles. Perhaps they walk everywhere these days. You have time for thoughts like these when you are plucking ducks, which takes two hours the way I do it. The duck was delicious; there wasn't much meat but we still had Christmas lunch to look forward to.

With Christmas Day only hours away, my brother and I realized we hadn't seen much of our families yet. We'd been too busy breaking and entering the larder. And oow we had to wrap our presents. Have you ever wrapped a present? I had, but you wouldn't think so to look at me. I do it with a roll of sticky tape in one hand and a roll of sticky tape in the other. And the technique I use reminds people of someone trying to get the feathers back out to a wild duck.

The only thing of note that happened before we finally got to bed was that my son was very ill. The only thing of note that happened during the night was that the two girls became very ill. The only interesting thing that happened on Christmas morning was that everyone else fell very ill, and by midday it was like being in the House of the Dying.

We did try to open our Christmas presents. Have you ever tried to open Christmas presents when your strength has sunk to below the strength of sticky tape? It's not easy, especially when you finally rip open the parcel and find that you've been given something edible.

Actually, it wasn't half a bad Christmas day at all, when the sick people are in a majority, it's the few healthy ones who feel the odd men out. We all crept around feeling sorry for ourselves and totally revelled in it. We speculated endlessly on whether it was the duck or mussels that caused the trouble. We switched off the Queen's broadcast after a couple of minutes because she looked so disgustingly well fed, unless of course it was the colour control.

In fact we felt incredibly virtuous when all eight of us got through the hours of Christmas daylight without touching a single solid. I think all I ever had for Christmas dinner, South Devon, 1983, was a cup of hot Bovril. My brother took a photograph of me doing it. We are sending it to the Photographers Gallery, Great Newport Street. You'll be able to see it there next year.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 235)

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ACROSS
 1 French resort area (7)
 5 Flashlight (5)
 8 In favour of (3)
 9 Nightmarish demon (7)
 10 Turns over (5)
 11 Sainer (4)
 12 Appetite (7)
 14 Boston state (13)
 16 Joint forces (7)
 18 Straw beehive (4)
 21 Furious (5)
 22 Put to death (7)
 23 Short nap (3)
 24 Jumped (5)
 25 Easily dissolved (7)

DOWN
 1 Decayed building (4)
 2 Petain's seat (5)
 3 Disco music (13)
 4 Eccentric orbit extremity (5)
 5 Hawksbill turtle (13)
 6 Dependant (7)
 7 Secret (4,4)
 13 Majestic (8)
 15 Seedless raisin (7)
 17 Cassis off (5)
 19 American suburb (5)
 20 We are (4)

SOLUTION TO No 234
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Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

● Great expectations: The top people's resolutions
 ● Travel: For ever England in Malaysia; young and away in the USA
 ● 1984: Calendar of world sport
 ● Neil Kinnock looks forward to 1984
 ● Values: A day at the sales in search of bargains

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Gardening; Review of the month's new paperback; hangover cures; Family Life on planning the perfect children's party; a critical guide to the arts and The Week Ahead; Bridge; Chess; Prize Concise Crossword

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COMMENT
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Giles R

Safety in numbers

FRIDAY PAGE

Women in Hungary

Changing minds

In Budapest, a man steps off the train and turns to give his hands to his wife, who follows him down. The old-world courtesy of the gesture seems incongruous in a country where official policy goes further than anywhere in the West in institutionalizing equality of the sexes. But that brief pantomime may give a truer picture of the status of women in Hungarian society than any number of official statements.



A traditional role for this peasant woman

out to work, until today nearly 90 per cent do so. The state has done a great deal to ease the burden of working mothers. They have the right to five months' maternity leave on full pay, and then either parent can stay at home for up to three years, drawing an allowance from the state, and still return to the same job. State kindergartens care for 88 per cent of children from three to six years old.

Responsibility for the smooth running of the home, however, and the health and well-being of the family, still tends to fall on women rather than men.

All this means that the women are carrying a double burden, just as working mothers do in the West. At nine or ten divorces per thousand existing marriages per year, the rate of marital breakdown is acknowledged to be high.

Meanwhile, women are clearly at a disadvantage in the labour market. On average, women in socialist countries earn only 70 to 80 per cent of the income enjoyed by men. Even these are official figures; in Hungary, almost everyone supplements a modest wage by moonlighting, dealing in black-market goods or otherwise cheating the system. Women, with responsibilities at home have less time for this sort of activity. As in the West, all but the most highly qualified women tend to be concentrated in sectors of the labour market that are low-paid.

Hungarian women who choose to pursue courses of higher education and training experience few obstacles compared with their western contemporaries, and are much better represented in "male" professions. But once they start work, their prospects for promotion become worse and worse as time passes.

Katalin Koncz, senior lecturer at the Karl Marx University of Economics in Budapest, attributes most disadvantages to the state's failure, despite its efforts to create an environment in which women can work on an equal footing with men. In Hungary, there seems to be little more to be achieved through legislation. But a great deal can still be done through bringing up boys and girls to have the same aims and accept the same responsibilities. The experience is a reminder for western women, still struggling for many of the rights Hungarian women already take for granted, that changes in government policy do not automatically bring about change of attitudes.

Georgina Ferry

Trapped by the Yuletide



Alan Franks nurses a hangover and reflects that seasonal goodwill has been sorely tried

Some years ago a wag in the greetings industry came up with this desperate little stanza:

Christmas comes but once a year, Bringing fog and fruitless cheer. You're sure to have a hectic time, But Merry Christmas just the same. Terrible. For the man deserves just a pinch of credit for attempting an Alternative Message and for getting in that word "hectic", somehow overlooked for two millennia by Yuletide lyricists. If only it rhymed properly with dyspeptic, we would have the basis for a really first class Christmas couplet.

Look around you; children in varying stages of that dreadful seasonal ailment, PHD (Post Yuletide Depression); yourself a victim of the adult counterpart, a hangover; cosmic weaponry all over the drawing room, with bleeps and flashes dreamed up in a spirit of punishment; and across the carpet a layer of Anti-Hoover Material, formerly known as Silka spruce needles. They say that Christmas is for children; in my opinion, formed in this trough between the two great festive peaks, the only truth in such a statement is that Christmas is definitely not for adults.

Have you noticed, parent, how your offspring ripped and raped those envelopes which bore their names? How they discarded the card and foraged for the nub of the communication an autumnal dropping of green notes? How there was an obscene premium on the parity between the siblings' takings? You haven't? Then there is a terrible opacity in your vision, or else your children dissemble so well that they are a discredit to you.

I submit that when parents trot

out this tired old disclaimer about Christmas being for the children, what they are really doing is expecting their young (whom they have after all created in their own image) to go through a similar piece of duplicity; outwardly treating the whole protracted affair as some celebration of divinity, and inwardly yearning for material gain.

The whole thing has an awesome momentum about it, recession or no. Hamleys of Regent Street sustained a tremendous growth in their toy sales this year, with Star Wars artefacts outstripping the rest of the field; these included the Millennium Falcon Vehicle at £22.99,

the At-At Giant Imperial Mechanical Monster at £29.99, and the Snow Speeder at £12.99. It occurred to me that some of these prices would strain the resources of most families but I can only conclude that I am out of touch with the real economic of parental budgets at Christmas.

(Am I alone in laughing rather sickly at the recurrent suffix of 99 pence on all the prices? Can the stores really believe that £29.99 looks any closer to £29 simply because the buyer stands to get some "change" from his three tentenners? Who do they think they are fooling? They must believe that suckers are

alive and well and living in debt, because the ploy has endured, to my knowledge, ever since Davy Crockett hats went for 6/11d).

Do you not also agree, parent, that if the nativity and its related produce were subjected to marketing techniques one fifth as sophisticated as those which sell toys, we should overnight become the most religiously devout nation this side of Islam?

I suppose the commercial price this Christmas was either Roland Rat (Hamleys sold out of the creature), or the Cabbage Patch Doll, neither of which has even the most tangential connexion with

Christmas through the ages: what the children thought



Kate Gillman, aged eight

Before: "I would like a briefcase for school because my other bag is torn. I've been going on about it for nearly a year. I'm looking forward to going to church. I go regularly, but dad only comes with us at Christmas because he's not a Catholic. I don't like turkey, because it's just like chicken, so we have a big chicken on Christmas Day, and ham on Boxing Day."

After: "I got the briefcase I wanted, and I also got a game of Monopoly from Father Christmas. I don't think it's an easy game because sometimes it's hard to keep what you've got, houses and things. Midnight Mass was quite nice because there were choirboys in the front row and girls in the organ loft..."



William McDowall, aged four

Before: "I went to Appletown and saw a suit of armour, and it made me want it. Not a real one. It might be gone by now, because there is only one there. I'm not sure whether to put my stocking on the wardrobe, or the bedpost, or the doorknob. The wardrobe, I think, because it's the highest place and Father Christmas will see it. He will bring me an extra present because I've humped my pen. I'm not sure what the extra present will be, but it could be the plastic fencing sword, which I also saw in Appletown."

After: "My extra present was a Mister Happy hot water bottle for when I've got a cold. The shield is the wrong shape; it is a round one and it should have been a long one, like Mrs Palmer's. The helmet has knobs in it which hurt my brother's head. But my head is the right shape for a Roman helmet, so it doesn't hurt me. Father Christmas saw the stocking, so it was lucky I left it on the wardrobe - but he gave the plastic fencing sword to my brother."



William Palmer, aged 14

Before: "I've got a vague idea what I'm getting. I think it's a record player, and I know I'm getting a pair of jeans. The record player won't be new; it'll be a mended one. I'm giving my brother Andrew a Clint Eastwood poster... I'm looking forward to the whole day, not just the presents, but also the lunch and the other events."

After: "I got the record player, but I also got a pair of speakers, which I wasn't expecting. I know they were dad's old ones, because he's just bought a new pair, but that doesn't matter... The whole day definitely lived up to expectations; in fact, I would say it was better, partly because I had forgotten how nice the Christmas lunch is. Oh yes, and I gave mum a diary and dad a drill-bit."

COMMENT The ABCs of exams

It is about time the debate about educational standards moved to more constructive ground. Of course, one of the main priorities of education must be to improve standards, but we need a proper definition of what that involves. If Britain is to prosper in the twenty-first century, schools must develop the all-round talents, non-academic as well as academic, of all our children. Any adequate assessment of how we are doing will, therefore, require far more than a comparison of examination results.

Where do we stand today? In spite of the prophets of doom, there is no evidence of a decline in standards. On the contrary, after a decade in which most of our secondary schools went comprehensive, more children are passing exams than ever before.

Though results have obviously been influenced by the introduction of CSE exams and by the raising of the school-leaving age, the percentage of those leaving school without passing any exam has fallen dramatically. Equally impressively, the percentage of the relevant age group achieving between one and four O-levels and of the group achieving five O-levels has increased significantly, while the proportion passing A-levels has also improved, marginally. Even investigations into areas where there are difficulties (such as the Cockcroft report into mathematics) confirm that there is no sign of falling standards.

It is, however, wrong to rely on exam results alone as a measure of educational performance. Exams like O and A-level are not necessarily an effective guide to intellectual achievement or potential. As the report of the House of Commons education select committee pointed out, such exams tend to put a premium on memory and exam technique rather than on the capacity to reason and argue.

The present exam system at 16-plus is designed to filter children only. It is true that, with the introduction of CSE, six out of seven pupils obtain an examination certificate in at least one subject by the time they leave school. But only 55 per cent achieve one O-level pass (O-Grade A to C or CSE Grade 1) and only just over 25 per cent of 17-year-olds achieve five O-level passes. No wonder that it has been called a "failure system".

So what should be done? There is no quick way to improve standards. The task is especially difficult at a time when schools are starved of resources, when the bleak prospects for school-leavers must make many pupils question the purpose and value of education.

There are, however, some initiatives that can be taken in the near future. We need an early decision from Sir Keith Joseph in favour of a common exam at 16-plus. Although the CSE exam can often provide a more appropriate test than O-level, it is undeniable that employers, pupils and even teachers have looked on it as inferior. What is now required, in the words of the education select committee, is a "common system catering for a very wide range of ability without pressing inappropriate criteria on any individual group".

There is also a strong case for developing a national system of profile reports for school-leavers which record all successes and achievements (whether academic or not) and throw light on such qualities as enthusiasm, persistence, willingness to accept responsibilities and the ability to participate constructively in group activity. Such a development could act as a counter to the idea that exams are the be-all and end-all of schooling.

I remain an optimist about the education system. We have moved forward over the last decade and with intelligence, persistence and vision, we should make even greater advances over the next decade.

Giles Radice

The author, Labour MP for Durham East, is the Opposition education spokesman.

Safety in numbers

The safe delivery Mrs Janet Walton's six girls is a triumph for the Liverpool obstetric and paediatric teams. They are now Britain's only surviving sextuplets and the only ones in the world of the same sex. The Walton's unalloyed delight at finding themselves parents of a well-stocked premature baby unit would not be echoed by all prospective parents. For this reason, and because of the high mortality rate for very small babies, every effort is made to reduce the chance of multiple pregnancies, so that the likelihood of this happening to a woman undergoing infertility treatment is small.

Before conception Mrs Walton was having treatment for failure to ovulate. In these cases two types of hormone are used. After the first, if there is evidence that a multiple pregnancy is likely, the second is omitted, and at the next attempt a smaller dose is substituted. Monitoring is achieved by measuring blood levels of oestrogen and the counting, with the aid of a scanner, of enlarged follicles on the ovary. For unknown reasons Mrs Walton's oestrogen levels were well within normal limits, and did not rise to the levels expected in a multiple pregnancy. In retrospect it is

considered that some bumps on her ovary noted at the time, thought of as being of no consequence, must have been ripening follicles.

In view of these apparently normal findings, Mrs Walton received the second hormone. As far as it is known none of the babies is identical, and fertilization and implantation of six embryos occurred.

At nine weeks Mr Usama Abdulla diagnosed at least five babies; the final count of six was only confirmed a week or two before delivery. The early diagnosis enabled Mrs Walton to be given appropriate antenatal care and for the paediatrician, Dr Richard Cooke, to train his team and prepare the necessary equipment.

The many fans of Mr John le Mesurier who died from a massive internal haemorrhage, will be pleased that the coroner stressed that although the actor was undoubtedly a convivial man who enjoyed a drink, it was impossible to be certain what had caused the trouble in this case.

Internal haemorrhage is often a terminal event in patients with cirrhosis of the liver. The hardening and shrinking in the liver which occurs in this disease impedes the free circulation of the blood around the liver. The back pressure from this obstruction causes varicose veins to

MEDICAL BRIEFING

form in the lower part of the oesophagus (gullet). Recently improved techniques have been introduced to help surgeons in their attempts to staunch the flow of blood which follows the bursting of one of these veins, but all too often their efforts are in vain.

Harmful treatment

Two years ago Professor J. R. A. Mitchell, of Nottingham University, published the results of a survey which seemed to show that more harm than good is done by treating high blood pressure in very old patients. He has renewed the controversy, by suggesting to the Lancet that doctors should change their set speech to the over-eighties, and now say: "Your blood pressure isn't normal, but at your age that's good".

Professor Mitchell told The Times that it was not known at what age it ceased to be beneficial to treat hypertension, or indeed what was an acceptable blood pressure for old people. It was universally accepted that in patients up to 60 or 65, treatment could be life-preserving; but there was little research data on the effects of treatment on people between this age and the work he and his team had done with the over-eighties.

"The doctor lies who tells a 70-year-old man that he knows that his blood pressure needs treating, if he says the same thing to a 70-year-old woman he lies twice over, for the truth is that he can only speak for the most enormous ignorance, as the majority of research on which his advice is based has been done on men under 60."

Trace of life Dr Richards, Brian Harley Street doctor formerly of Sandwich, now defending himself in America against charges concerning conspiracy to murder his partner, has recently written the foreword to a book extolling the advantages of taking the trace element, selenium. Recent articles in both the BMJ and the Lancet would seem to support this.

The importance of trace elements to human health, long recognized in veterinary medicine, has only recently received publicity. Magnesium and selenium have both been the object of recent reports. Selenium soil levels are low in Britain, except in a small area of North Norfolk where, whether as a result of this or by chance, there is a particularly good record for longevity. High selenium levels throughout the world seem to be associated with

low levels of malignant disease. A few years ago a scientist employed by one pharmaceutical firm was considered such a bore because of his preoccupation with the importance of magnesium that he was eventually dismissed. Unfortunately for him he was in advance of his time, for now the importance of this trace element is widely recognized. Low levels occur in some soft-water areas, and seem to be one of the factors contributing to an increased incidence of hypertension.

Low blood levels, which can result from excessive alcohol intake or some strong diuretic "water pills", increase the heart's irritability so that an abnormal rhythm, possibly fatal, may occur.

Hope for smokers

An experiment carried out in six group practices by the Addiction Research Unit of the Institute of Psychiatry, London, showed that when the offer of a prescription of nicotine gum was used to reinforce the doctors' advice and an anti-smoking booklet the number of patients who were still not smoking after a year virtually doubled. A report in the British Medical Journal suggests that this research is of importance as it offers a simple method of overcoming one of the problems of treating smokers; the time involved in long counselling sessions.

Kindest cut?

Before the war, circumcision was the hallmark without which no middle-class delivery was complete, but since then in Britain, it has been condemned by paediatricians as a dangerous mutilation. Venereologists have had doubts about this reasoning. Apart from the often quoted freedom the operation is said to ensure from cancer of the penis and a sometimes disfiguring skin disease, BXO, they have always had the impression that minor skin and other infections are seen less often in the circumcised.

In order to investigate the theory that the operation is mutilating, functionally a mistake and aesthetically undesirable a simple survey was carried out a few years ago among very promiscuous women patients attending a London clinic, the only people whose judgment was considered to be less affected by emotion. By an overwhelming majority they declared a preference for circumcised men.

To this anecdotal evidence is now added a report from Australia. A team from the University of Western Australia has found that herpes and gonorrhoea was twice as common in the uncircumcised; in thrust, and in the small number of cases of syphilis, five times as common. Unfortunately, these figures have not been corrected for a possible social-class bias.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Anyone who's mean enough to celebrate the New Year without Smirnoff might need this card.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME AS I HAVE TEMPORARILY LOST MY VOICE. Happy New Year!

CUT OUT, THEN DISPLAY AFTER EVERY SLUG OF CHEAP VODKA.



IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

Review of the year 1983

George Hill ponders Lebanon, Grenada, Parkinson's sin, seat belts, acid rain, Andropov's cold, and finally drifts off into the void...

So we fastened our seatbelts and gingerly steered off into the last lap of history before George Orwell's year of dust and ash.

The initial view is less bleak than we had feared: we still have our freedoms (haven't we?) No replacements issued if mislaid, and most of even our unemployed enjoy greater material wealth than average inhabitants of Orwell's fable, or his England.

As for the rest of the world, there has never been a time when existence in Airstrip One would have seemed in many places other than enviably ample and untroubled.

British forces were involved in, or exposed to, the fighting in Lebanon, as part of an international force sent into the vacuum left by the Israelis.



Lebanon: still dodging round shattered blocks of reinforced concrete

Channel a little extra tax relief to the struggling mortgagee, and ungrateful tenants are sure to cry foul because their housing benefit has been cut.

However unwrapping the meier, there was no shortage of applicants to enter it this year. With three million unemployed, people will snatch at anything even half respectable.

On The Day After, picking over the rubble, we observed that the Tories had gained the most decisive majority in 30 years on a slightly reduced minority share of the vote.

In the last analysis unemployment was to blame, as for most other evils of the time. If it were not so notoriously difficult for an able and resourceful woman to get ahead in the Tory party, Miss Sara Keays would probably have found fulfilment nursing a safe seat instead of a baby, and have gone harmlessly to the backbenches, never to be heard of again.

Disarmers and deterrents both found welcome reinforcement for their cases during the year in a study which indicated that even a desultory nuclear exchange would fill the stratosphere with enough dust to plunge the globe into an Arctic winter lasting for years.

continued overcast until July 2, when the sun came out all over Europe, and stayed out for the rest of a sweltering summer and resplendent autumn.

Britain was so debilitated by the heat that few sporting exploits of significance occurred here, except in the line of anomalies. Surrey were skittled out by Essex for 14 runs, and the unseeded Chris Lewis found himself overparted in the final of a Wimbledon of fallible seeds.

The political affairs of the year were relatively straightforward, unambiguous, and unimportant. But from time to time we felt the need (especially when the NCA had sealed the lips of Fleet Street because of a faraway freshest of which we knew little) of someone who could make all clear and dispel all confusions - someone with a mission to explain. We were fortunate that the advent of TV-AM brought us just such a mentor: Roland Rat.

In the film world, Gandhi, with its eight Oscars was only the most bemuddled of a number of outstanding British films. Indeed, it was not a bad year for the arts generally, proving once again that there is nothing like a funding crisis to concentrate minds.

It was the year when a brazen travesty of the sovereign became legal tender, when the Irish police boited the stable door after the horse had been kidnapped, when it was not always advisable to drive a yellow Mini in Central London, when the IRA came to Harrods, and when Sir Oswald Mosley spoke from beyond the grave, and Hitler did not.

At about the time the Korean airliner was cruising into Soviet airspace, the spacecraft Pioneer 10, launched in 1972, became the first human artefact to escape the solar system altogether. Sent off from our flimsy planet like one of Noah's birds from the storm-tossed Ark, it left behind all terrestrial dangers from MrGs, Big Brothers, ayatollahs, Persings, Tridants and politicians, and cruised away into the void, still twitting. It will probably outlast everything else that we have done.

Diary

Compiled by Jack Lonsdale

JANUARY

- 3 The Times resumed publication following the loss of eight issues because of an industrial dispute. A dog falling into the sea at Blackpool caused the death of its owner and three police officers. The Pope named 18 new cardinals including one from Russia. Government reshuffle: Mr Michael Heseltine replaced Mr Nott (resigned) at Defence and was succeeded at Environment by Mr Tom King. Two RUC officers were shot dead at Rostrevor, Co Down. Captain K. Kirk, a Dennis fisherman, was fined £30,000 for fishing within the British 12-mile limit in the North Sea. The Anglican Evangelical Assembly was inaugurated. Australia regained the Ashes. Mrs Thatcher visited the Falklands. A Soviet official was expelled from London for espionage (see also Sept 29). Mr Stephen Waldorf was shot in police in London in the belief that he was David Irving who had escaped from custody on Christmas Eve (see also 28 and Oct 19). Two RAF officers were found guilty of accidentally shooting down a Jaguar aircraft on May 25, 1982. The IRA murdered Judge William in Belfast. Forty-seven people were killed when a Turkish Airlines Boeing 727 crashed at Ankara. Nigeria expelled two million aliens; on the 31st Ghana opened its borders to its nationals. The BBC's early-morning television began; independent TV-am began on Feb 7. The Franks Committee on the invasion of the Falklands by Argentina reported: it could not have been foreseen; the machinery of government and British intelligence was open to criticism. The Court of Appeal ruled that refusal to work overtime by a group of employees was "industrial action". Denmark ended its dispute with the EEC on fishing. Lance-Corporal Philip Leslie Aldridge was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for passing secret information to Russia. Mr Michael Fagan, who broke into the Queen's bedroom on July 9 last year, was released from a Liverpool mental hospital. After five years of semi-autonomous rule, Namibia came under direct rule by South Africa. The Serpell report on British Rail suggested a smaller system and higher commuter fares. Job losses announced: British Shipbuilders - 2,300; on the 21st,

- Lucas - 4,200. The Irish Republic's Garda Commissioner and one of its deputies retired (Feb 1) following the telephone tapping of two journalists. Inflation fell to 5.4 per cent - the lowest for 13 years. Hever Castle, Kent, was sold for about £9m to Broadland Properties. The Soviet satellite Cosmos 1402 fell harmlessly into the Indian Ocean. Bjorn Borg announced his retirement from world tennis. In Rome, among the sentences on the Red Brigade terrorists were 32 for life for 17 murders including that of Aldo Moro. Water and sewage workers began an official strike; it ended on Feb 24. The pound fell to \$1.5405, its lowest ever. A common fisheries policy for the EEC was initiated in Brussels. China commuted the death sentence imposed in Jan 1981 on Mao Tse-Tung's widow, Jiang Qing. The Court of Appeal dismissed two applications for judicial review of decisions of the Boundary Commission. David Martin was recaptured in London; he was jailed for 25 years on Oct 11. 30 Druze militia began shelling Beirut. Car seatbelt wearing became compulsory. The Reagan offer to meet Mr Andropov for a missile pact; the offer was rejected. A British Army unit arrived in Beirut. Six people were killed in Britain during gales of over 100 mph. 2 The strategic arms reduction talks resumed in Geneva. 3 Unemployment rose to 3,224,716 - a record. The Press Council criticized newspapers for their coverage of the Yorkshire Ripper case. 4 The Shops Bill (allowing Sunday trading) was defeated in the Commons. 5 Twenty-two people were killed when a bomb exploded outside the PLO offices in Beirut. 6 The Butcher of Lyons - was imprisoned in Lyons following expulsion from Bolivia. 7 Iran launched a major offensive against Iraq. 8 In Israel, the Kahane report on the Beirut Chabra and Sabra massacres (Sept 1982) condemned the Government and Mr Sharon, the defence minister, on the 11th the Government

FEBRUARY

- 1 A British Army unit arrived in Beirut. 2 A policeman was shot dead by the IRA in Belfast - the fifth violent death in 13 days. The Pope began a tour of eight Central American states. 3 A British Medical Association report stated that nuclear survival plans would be a "myth". 4 In Australia the Labour Party, led by Mr Bob Hawke, decisively beat Mr Malcolm Fraser's coalition. Three Arabs were sentenced for the attempted assassination of the Israeli Ambassador, Mr Argov, in June 1982 in London. 5 Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Christian Democrat party were returned to power in Germany. Following threats to kill him, Mr Joshua Nkomo fled from Harare; he arrived in London on the 13th; he left on Aug 16

- accepted the report and Mr Sharon resigned. The 1981 Derby winner Shergar was kidnapped from Co Kildare. The General Synod rejected unilateral nuclear disarmament. Remains of three men were found in a drain in North London; on the 11th Dennis Andrew Nilson was charged with murder; on Nov 4 he was found guilty on six counts of murder and two attempted; his sentence recommended at least 25 years in prison. 11 Inflation fell to 4.9 per cent. The Sunday Times and Daily Star were found guilty of contempt of court in respect of reports about Mr Michael Fagan. 12 The Government stated it had rejected dual-key control for cruise missiles because of the £1,000m cost. In Northern Italy 64 lives were lost in a Turin cinema fire and 10 in a cable-car accident near Ayas. The Queen began a month-long tour of the West Indies, Mexico and the west coast of America. 16 Bush fires in southern Australia killed at least 69 people. 17 Mr Anatoly Shcheransky ended his four-month hunger strike in the Soviet Union.

"Bermondsey was a disaster, quite frankly." Moss Evans after Bermondsey by-election. February 25

- 21 More than 800 lives were lost in a fire in the South Atlantic Fund reached £14.8m. Buckingham Palace applied for an injunction against The Sun to restrain it from publishing alleged details of the private life of the royal family; the action was dropped on March 2 with The Sun withdrawing further articles and paying £4,000 to charity. 23 The Labour Party expelled five militants. 24 In the Bermondsey by-election, Liberal/SDP Alliance gained the seat from Labour. 25 The estimated death toll in the violence in Assam rose to 1,500; thousands fled over the frontier. 26 British Leyland received an extra £100m of public money. Miners in Wales went on strike.

MARCH

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- 7 The 100-nation non-aligned movement summit opened in Delhi. Ninety-eight miners were killed in a pit explosion in Turkey. 8 A 1935 £1,000 bank note was auctioned at Spink's for £8,800. 9 Miners voted against a strike on pit closures and on the 10th agreed to drop their year-old boycott of the NCB. "Don't go upstairs." Note pinned to door to warn maid when Arthur Koestler and his wife committed suicide. March 3

- 12 Jayna Torvill and Christopher Dean won the world ice dance championship at Helsinki. 14 Opel cut the price of oil by 15 per cent. 15 Budget: increase in drink, petrol and tobacco duties. Bank lending rate cut to 10.5 per cent. A letter bomb addressed to the Prime Minister was defused and a second one on the 18th. 16 The multinational force in Beirut was attacked. 17 Mrs Francis Griffiths, photographer of Cottingley Dell (Bermondsey) in 1917, confessed that the photograph was a fake. 18 The Prince and Princess of Wales left on a tour of Australia, arriving back on May 11. Mr Peter Jay resigned as chairman of TV-am; on April 19 Miss Anna Ford and Miss Angela Ripston were dismissed. The Government agreed to the development of a coal pit in the Vale of Belvoir. 22 Drought in Ethiopia was bringing famine to more than a million people. Mr Chairman Harzog was elected president of Israel. President Kaunda of Zambia arrived on a state visit. 23 The Keith Report recommended tougher measures against tax evaders. 24 The death toll in the violence in Assam was estimated to be at least 5,000. 25 The Pope inaugurated Holy year. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Britain had violated prisoners' rights in censoring mail. 26 British Leyland workers at Cowley went on strike over "washing-up time"; they returned on April 7. The Chester Report on the Football League proposed a reduction in the first division. 28 Thirty-one Poles who jumped ship at Tilbury were allowed to remain in Britain for a year. 31 At Walsand, naval seamen dressed as civilians took over a Falkland township; it was handed back to union labour on April 8.

APRIL

- 1 CND supporters linked hands to form a chain between Burghfield and Greatnam Common. 3 The IRA murdered a man at Bangor and admitted the next day it was a mistake. Guerrillas in Matabeleland murdered three white people. 4 Vietnam mounted a major attack on Cambodian forces on the Thai frontier. America's space shuttle Challenger was launched; its communications satellite became out of control after 73 minutes. 5 France expelled 47 Russian diplomats for alleged spying. An armed gang escaped with £7m from Security Express HQ. Thailand dropped napalm bombs on Vietnamese soldiers on the Cambodian border. 8 Russia expelled a British journalist and the Financial Times correspondent. 10 King Hussein of Jordan failed to reach agreement with the PLO on a Middle East plan. Relatives of those who had died in the Falklands arrived there on a 12-day visit. 11 In Belfast 14 "loyalists" were sentenced on the evidence of a supergrass. General Gallieri, former Argentine president, was sentenced to 80 days detention for indiscretions; details of a court martial were reported on Nov 24. 12 Gandhi won eight Oscars. 14 Unemployed school-leavers were offered a year's training in the Forces. Eleven people were murdered in Mafia violence in Sicily. Interest rates were cut to 10 per cent. 17 The London Marathon. 18 Thirty-nine people were killed when a bomb blasted the US embassy in Beirut. The Government committed itself to lead-free petrol by 1990. 21 The £1 coin came into usage. 22 Australia expelled a Soviet diplomat - an alleged KGB man. 27 Four British relief workers and two Irish nurses were kidnapped in Ethiopia; released on June 8. The VC awarded to Wing Commander James Nicholson was bought at auction for £110,000 by the RAF Battle of Britain Museum. 28 The High Court ruled that the distribution of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society's A Guide to Self-Deliverance was not illegal.

- 10 The IRA killed the wife of an Army sergeant in Londonderry. The Attorney-General ruled that the post-cortical pill was "not illegal". 11 Russia again refused to allow Dr Sakharov to leave the country. In one week two black men died while in police custody in Dirkeasoup, Trenevall. British Rail losses for 1982 were £174m. 12 The Plowden Committee on Top Salaries recommended: 7.2 per cent increase for Forces; 6 (plus 2.7 Jan 84) for doctors; 4.7 per cent for Cabinet ministers - the last rejected by the Cabinet. The Government accepted a Security Commission plan for its detectors to be used on security staff. 13 The Speaker, Mr George Thomas, retired; on June 15 Mr Bernard Weatherill was elected as the 154th Speaker. 14 The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Mgr Bruno Heim, criticised the CND secretary, Mgr Bruce Kent; on the 20th the Vatican disassociated itself from the criticism. 16 An RUC officer was shot dead by the IRA in Belfast. 17 Medium-range missile negotiations resumed in Geneva. Others 21: Mr Egan, Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Gerard Fitz lost their seats. Three guerrillas of the ANC were hanged in Pretoria. The morning sickness drug Debendox was withdrawn by its manufacturers. 12 Cabinet changes: Mr Francis Pym (Foreign) was dismissed and replaced by Sir Geoffrey Howe (Exchequer) who was succeeded by Mr Nigel Lawson; Mr William Whitelaw (Home) was created an hereditary peer and succeeded by Mr. L. Brittan. Mr Roy Jenkins resigned as leader of the SDP. Pioneer 10 became the first machine to leave the solar system. 14 Interest rates cut from 10 to 9 1/2 per cent. 16 The Pope began an eight-day pilgrimage to Poland; he met Mr Lech Walesa and General Jaruzelski on the 23rd. Mr Yuri Andropov was elected president of the USSR. The Central Policy Review Staff Debendox was discontinued. "I think tank" was disbanded. 17 The five crewmen of the fishing boat Archadia died when it was wrecked off the Sutherland coast. President Reagan pledged support to President Magana's regime in El Salvador. 18 Inflation fell to 3.7 per cent - the lowest for 15 years. One hundred people allegedly involved with the Neopagan crime organization Camorra were arrested in Italy. 19 Mr Lixian-nian was chosen as China's first president since 1969. 20 Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited Northern Ireland. Diamonds worth £10m were stolen from a jeweller in Mayfair, London. A verdict of suicide was returned on Colin Roach who died of gunshot wounds at Stoke Newington police station on January 12; on the 28th an inquiry on the police handling of the case was ordered.

"Here we are with a cut-and-run election a year before this Parliament needs to be dissolved. If the recovery is on the way why the rush?" Michael Foot on election announcement. May 9

- 18 The inquiry into the Penlee life boat disaster of Dec 19, 1981, cleared the coastguards and the master and crew of the coaster. At Sotheby's, New York, 16 paintings fetched £10.45m. 20 A car bomb killed 18 people in Pretoria; on the 23rd, South Africa Air Force bombed Maputo, Mozambique, in retaliation. Inflation fell to 4 per cent. 21 The Criminal Justice Act came into operation. 25 Syrian jets fired at Israeli planes over Lebanon. A ferry on the Upper Nile caught fire and 194 lives were lost. The Society of Authors received £400,000 from the will of Miss Margaret Elizabeth Trask, novelist. 27 People Express made its first flight, London-New York for £98. The High Court awarded £4m damages against two video pirates. 28 Eight Western leaders met at Williamsburg, Virginia. For the fourth time in 16 years a £1m ransom note was stolen from Dulwich Gallery, London. 30 First meeting of the New Ireland Forum in Dublin. 31 More than 200 Ugandan refugees were killed at Kiyukwa camp by guerrillas.

MAY

- 1 Workers clashed with police in cities in Poland. 2 Steve Davis beat Cliff Thorburn for the world professional snooker title. 3 Mr. Jeremy Carlland was awarded £50,000 libel damages against the BBC over a television programme on the killing of his father 10 years ago. 4 The IRA murdered a man and exploded two missiles against a suspected submarine off its east coast. 5 Stern began publication of the Hitler Diaries; on the 8th, West Germany declared them forgeries and The Sunday Times cancelled plans to publish them. 7 Sotheby's a suit of 18th century armour from Hever Castle fetched £1.925m. Mass protests in France against economic measures. 8 New police powers on drinking - driving came into force. 9 Sections of the PLO mutinied against Mr Yassir Arafat.

JUNE

- 1 A pay dispute at the Financial Times stopped production; it resumed on August 9. First prosecution of a video "nasty" under the Obscene Publications Act. 2 A black South African miners' union won recognition. 3 At the end of a four-day blockade at the USAF base at Upper Heyford more than 750 people had been arrested. Harry Kirkpatrick, INLA member who turned supergrass, received a life sentence in Belfast for admitted murders. 4 The dioxin waste from Seveso arrived at the premises of Hoffmann La Roche in Basle (see also Sept 24). Wife burning in Delhi claimed its ninth victim in one week. 7 Former Nazi Heinz Barth was jailed for life for war crimes including the June 1940 massacre at Oradour. 8 BTR won control of Thomas Tilling with a takeover bid of £660m. 9 General election: Conservative 397; Labour 209; Alliance 23; Others 21. Mr Egan, Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Gerard Fitz lost their seats. Three guerrillas of the ANC were hanged in Pretoria. The morning sickness drug Debendox was withdrawn by its manufacturers. 12 Cabinet changes: Mr Francis Pym (Foreign) was dismissed and replaced by Sir Geoffrey Howe (Exchequer) who was succeeded by Mr Nigel Lawson; Mr William Whitelaw (Home) was created an hereditary peer and succeeded by Mr. L. Brittan. Mr Roy Jenkins resigned as leader of the SDP. Pioneer 10 became the first machine to leave the solar system. 14 Interest rates cut from 10 to 9 1/2 per cent. 16 The Pope began an eight-day pilgrimage to Poland; he met Mr Lech Walesa and General Jaruzelski on the 23rd. Mr Yuri Andropov was elected president of the USSR. The Central Policy Review Staff Debendox was discontinued. "I think tank" was disbanded. 17 The five crewmen of the fishing boat Archadia died when it was wrecked off the Sutherland coast. President Reagan pledged support to President Magana's regime in El Salvador. 18 Inflation fell to 3.7 per cent - the lowest for 15 years. One hundred people allegedly involved with the Neopagan crime organization Camorra were arrested in Italy. 19 Mr Lixian-nian was chosen as China's first president since 1969. 20 Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited Northern Ireland. Diamonds worth £10m were stolen from a jeweller in Mayfair, London. A verdict of suicide was returned on Colin Roach who died of gunshot wounds at Stoke Newington police station on January 12; on the 28th an inquiry on the police handling of the case was ordered.

- 23 The US Supreme Court ruled that Congress could not veto presidential decisions. 24 Mr Yassir Arafat was ordered to leave Syria; his HQ was set up in Tripoli, Lebanon; pitched battles between PLO loyalists and rebels broke out on the 28th (see also Dec 20). Space shuttle Challenger completed its six days in orbit. 25 India won the Prudential World Cricket Cup. 26 Five British tourists were killed and 31 injured when their coach crashed near Avallon, France. Richard and Adrian Crane finished their 2,000-mile run across the Himalayas in 101 days.

"I still hope it will be possible to find some place where his talents will be used to the best advantage of the country." William Whitelaw on sacking of Francis Pym from Cabinet. June 12

- 27 A second inquiry on Signor Roberto Calvi returned an open verdict - reversing the first verdict of suicide. A record price for an abstract - £1512m - was paid for a Mondrian at Christie's. 29 The Court of Session, Edinburgh, ruled that a local authority had no power to add fluoride to the water supply. 30 The High Court in Melbourne ruled against the building of the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam in Tasmania. The House of Lords overruled an Appeal judgment that a husband had to leave home so that his wife could return there. A report criticized the West Yorkshire police handling of the Yorkshire Ripper murder hunt. Lonrho failed in its attempt to separate Harrods from the House of Fraser.

JULY

- 3 The IRA burnt Mr Gerard Fitz's house in Belfast. 4 The Selby coalfield began production. 5 The Government "fined" high-spending local authorities. 6 British Aerospace announced 3,500 redundancies. The Defence White Paper showed Britain spending more per head than other leading members of Nato. Syria refused to withdraw from Lebanon. 7 The £500m cut in public expenditure included £140m on health. 8 The Prevention of Terrorism bill was published. An auction report for furniture was made when a Louis XVI cabinet fetched £950,000 at Sotheby's. 10 Polisario guerrillas attacked Moroccan positions. 11 Private Eye paid £95,000 in libel damages and costs to Sir James Goldsmith. 12 The European Court of Justice

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THE TIMES DIARY

Third person

A constitutional crisis looms at the next coronation over who will hold the office of Lord Great Chamberlain, the custodian of the Palace of Westminster.

The office switches every reign to one of three families: the Marquess of Cholmondeley, who is the present Lord Great Chamberlain, the Earl of Ancaster, the last, and the Marquess of Lincolnshire who should be the next, except that the title is extinct, the last marquess having died in 1928.

As the last marquess had five daughters, there are no laws of primogeniture as to which of the 20 odd surviving descendants should take this hereditary office. All the males and perhaps all the females have an equal right to be Lord Great Chamberlain.

Le snail

With French snails approaching zero population growth, the British variety is being sent across the Channel at an ever-increasing rate. The Somerset village of Westbury, sub-Mendip is well placed to take advantage of this new market because its drystone walls provide rich breeding grounds for the Mendip snail. A company based there now trails snails to France complete with garlic butter but tones down the variety supplied to English restaurateurs by substituting a herb and cider sauce.

BARRY FANTONI

TOP SECURITY



"Hello, it's me again"

Feet first

The Prime Minister is a busy woman so I don't suppose she had time to read *Kindly Sit Down*, a compilation of after-dinner speeches by politicians and others collected by Jack Aspinwall MP, before she wrote the foreword to it. Had she turned to Roger Moore's contribution - "A politician is a person who approaches every subject with an open mouth" (Oscar Wilde) before taking up her own pen she might not have written: "It was, after all, the late governor Adlai Stevenson who defined a politician as one who approached every question with an open mouth."

On the way out

Unlike the genuine article, a fake broadsheet newspaper called *Not The 1984 Times* is very ungenerous with its bylines. Though articles such as "Tobacco companies move into nutrition" are not attributed, one gets a clue as to who the writers are by turning to the back page section headed *Not The 1984 Times Information Service*. Here there is a short item about a fire which destroys El Vino's - "historic meeting place and centre of pre-revolutionary thought". Those seen escaping through a rear exit are listed alphabetically and read remarkably like a list of contributors.

Overvalued

Although £70,000 has already been spent on its promotion, the British Museum's exhibition "The Art of Korea" will not now take place in the spring. The reason for the cancellation is that the South Korean authorities put a valuation on the objects to be exhibited which was thought by the BM to be about three times their worth. The exhibition might have gone ahead had both parties discussed the valuation when the project was first mooted.

Out of bounds

At last week's Greater London Council question time it emerged that if the Government's plan goes through to abolish the GLC, and transfer its assets and functions to the domain of the borough councils, one result would be that a municipal golf course in Hainault Forest would be so divided that there would be nine holes in Redbridge, eight in Havering and one in Epping Forest.

Cold comfort

A Londoner who faced the prospect of an uncoked turkey on Christmas Day rang an LBC phone-in programme this week to say how grateful she was to the gas board for turning out when her oven failed to stay alight. "So everything turned out fine in the end" presenter Carol Thatcher asked. "Oh yes", the woman replied, "a neighbour very kindly cooked the turkey." "Hold on", Carol said, "what about the gas board?" "Oh, they hadn't got the spares".

Bernard Levin on the morality of publishing confidential documents

"Should not a reputable newspaper decline to publish a document obtained by the betrayal of a position of trust? This question was asked in a letter published by *The Times* soon after the conclusion of the legal action involving *The Guardian*, which had printed a confidential document provided by a civil servant (since dismissed). Obviously, the question was not concerned only with *The Guardian*; indeed, it was prompted by a leader in this newspaper which said that *The Times* would have printed the document itself. There is a very important principle - there are several very important principles - involved in this business, and it is by no means so easy to come to conclusions on it as the correspondence which asked the question (to which the only answer that can be given without careful thought is "Up to a point, Lord Copper") may suppose.

It should be noted that although of course secret documents have been improperly provided for publication ever since secret documents have existed, it is only in very recent years that the practice has become so widespread that general conclusions can be drawn from it. In our day, magazines such as *Time Out* have built entire circulations, and journalists such as Mr Duncan Campbell entire reputations, on such documents.

It was the lads at *Time Out* who first spotted the vital loophole in the law through which it was possible to avoid prosecution by using only photocopies of the originals; they could then say - provided they remembered to keep their faces straight that they had not been knowingly handling other people's property, only copies of it.

I own to a slight feeling of regret at the easier modern methods. Once, the great journalist ferrets like *Chapman Pincher* and *Percy Hoskins* had to spend years getting to know, and be trusted by, the officials with whom they dealt, and officials would provide important information because they knew that it was wanted for reasons other than grinding a party-political axe; later, investigative reporters like Nicholas Tomalin got their confidential information by weeks of dogged hard work and frightful expenditure on shoe-leather. Nowadays, all that is necessary is to be in touch with the tiny trots who are to be found in

When the press must publish and be damned

every institution with secrets to preserve, and in no time the stuff is being trundled out in wheelbarrows. Still, that does not affect the principle. Should a reputable newspaper decline to publish a document obtained by the betrayal of a position of trust?

Newspapers, in this aspect of their business, exist to reveal, as government (at all levels) exists to conceal, and there is no possible way in which these two interests can be reconciled. In Britain there is far too much official secrecy for our health, and governments of all stripes are always seeking ways of increasing it. (It may be taken as axiomatic that all claims made of behalf of new legislation to the effect that it is liberalizing the laws on obtaining information are the exact opposite of the truth - the Contempt of Court Act is a recent example which confirms this axiom in a most striking manner.)

The extent of our restrictions is indicated by the US Freedom of Information Act. American governments are no less enamoured of secrecy than are British ones, but the genuine independence of the American legislature ensured that this admirable, indeed noble, measure was passed into law. It is inconceivable that a whipped House of Commons would ever be allowed to give Britain something similar, though we need it more than the Americans, not less. (Our own, parallel, measure, aborted in the nick of time, would have greatly restricted our access to information.) And I am quite sure that the use of the law against those who seek to shed light on that which government wishes to remain in darkness will increase; it is very clear that those whose job it is to keep government secrets secret have now reached truly stupefying levels of laziness and incompetence, but instead of

tackling the problem there, government will deal with it by new laws against exposure and higher penalties for it.

It is important to remember that the weight of armour in this battle is always much greater on the side of the secret-keepers, if only because they alone can increase its weight at will. It is not necessary to believe that the underdog should always be supported by the bystanders, but it is necessary to see clearly which the underdog is. Of course, there is vast amount of hypocrisy on the side of the exposer; who ever saw, or ever will see, an expose of Castro in *Time Out*, or of Kenneth Livingstone in *City Limits*, or for that matter of CND in *The Guardian*? But that is not an argument for restricting the flow of information; it is only the price we have to pay for increasing it.

All the same, the secret documents that are now published almost every day are obtained by the betrayal of a position of trust. What do newspapers say to that charge? Well, newspapers hire me to give my own views, not theirs, and my view is that no such principle as the writer of the original letter envisages can be accepted. Governments are guilty not only of concealment, they also lie. So do businessmen, so do trade union leaders, so do police and military chiefs, so do nuclear disarmers, so do party officials, so do quangoes, so do newspaper proprietors. (I have even heard tell, though the report should be treated with the utmost circumspection, that journalists themselves have on rare occasions been known to tell something less - or more - than the complete truth.)

Nobody lies all, or even much, of the time (the belief that all persons in all positions of authority do nothing but lie from morning to night is the fallacy that pervades the letters column of *The Guardian*),

but one thing I know for sure about those set in authority over us; if they did not fear exposure, they would all lie more than they do. It is not just an informed public opinion that is essential to democracy; it is a truthfully informed public opinion, and the shortfall in truth on the part of the authorities can be made good only by continuous and relentless investigation and exposure.

The man who passed on the DHSS document to *The Guardian* is not, apparently, to be prosecuted; I suspect that if the one who passed on the MoD document is apprehended, he will be. But I do not argue for a relaxation in the law itself. It is right, in most circumstances, for journalists to refuse to reveal the identity of their sources; it is also right, when they do refuse, for the law to punish them. It is clear that a newspaper which publishes a document obtained by a betrayal of trust is abetting that betrayal; it is not clear that it is necessarily abetting a crime, and I think the distinction is important. Important, mind, not absolute; if a newspaper had reason to believe that a Home Office official or senior police officer whose job was to advise on the authorization of official telephone-tapping was corrupt or in the pay of an enemy power, who will argue that the newspaper would always be wrong (as it would undoubtedly be breaking the law) to tap his telephone, knowing that a complaint through official channels would be blocked by the man himself? (See the career of Kim Philby, *passim*.)

I would like to see a real British Freedom of Information Act, as I would like to see an end of many forms of official secrecy. But much more important than changing the law is seeing that the war on the concealers by the exposer is never abandoned. Newspapers should always strive to keep on the lawful side of the line, and not to complain when, if they should cross it, they are penalized. But to publish documents obtained by betrayal of trust cannot be always and automatically judged wrong, distasteful though it is. The policeman may have distasteful evidence to give, but he is not to be put out of court on that account. *Should* newspapers decline to publish material supplied by trust-breakers? Up to a point, Lord Copper.

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David Watt

Margaret Thatcher's last chance

The British public, according to the latest Gallup poll, expects 1984 to bring higher prices, higher unemployment and more labour trouble. As usual, the British public speaks with the voice of jaundiced common sense.

Ministers may point to flattening curves, improving trends, and - beyond "another four years of hard slog" - the distance glimpse of posterity, where inflation stands permanently at 4 per cent or below, and the standard rate of income tax at 25p in the pound, and where tears will be wiped away from the eyes of everyone except Mr Kinnoch, Mr Scargill and two million permanently unemployed. The voters will believe in this promised land when they set foot in it, and not before.

Meanwhile, in 1984, the British pilgrim band will continue to plod through the night of doubt and sorrow much as it has in the last half of 1983. There are still no signs of a serious mutiny, but not many signs of positive thinking either, and some uttering that could easily turn nasty later on.

It is hard to fault these popular expectations. On the bright side, it is true, people may underestimate the extent of the economic recovery. It is genuinely possible (though rather improbable) that business confidence and investment will take off, that unemployment will actually fall during the year instead of merely standing still or increasing at a slower rate. But this possibility could be counterbalanced by extended calamities over which no British government has any control, such as a financial crisis brought on by third world debts, or a violent change in oil prices.

Another way of putting the matter is to say that though we are only seven months past our triumphant reelection, Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues have astonishingly little room for manoeuvre, either economic or political. Their whole strategy has been geared to the recession - for without the dull collapse of trade union militancy and of commodity prices which the recession has caused, Thatcherism would have run into the buffers long since.

On the other hand, having squeezed as much advantage as possible from the situation in the form of low inflation, a productivity shake-out, and better control of public-sector wages without producing the desired new growth, it is hard to see how to make further real progress - except by fulfilling the long-postponed promise to cut taxes and lower interest rates.

This is where the present argument in the Cabinet begins. Should one, as the Chancellor urges, make room by drastic new cuts in public expenditure, including defence and the social services? Should one, as the "wets" urge, hang on to the welfare state but take the inflationary risk of Keynesian expansion anyhow? Or should one try to compromise on marginal changes (as most of the Cabinet seem inclined to do), and hope the economy will inch forward on its own account?

The first strategy might mean a massive political revolt - all the more destructive if the restraints of recession were removed. The second would involve a severe loss of ideological face, and even if this could be concealed behind a good deal of economic mumbo-jumbo, the reappearance of inflation could not. As for the compromise strategy, it probably contains the highest risk of them all - the risk of getting the worst of all worlds and facing the electorate in 1987 or '88 with nothing to show for eight or nine years of misery except lower inflation, continued high unemployment and a moth-eaten welfare state.

From a strictly economic standpoint, a definite decision among these options could probably be postponed until 1985 or even, at a pinch, 1986. This would entail, in effect, the adoption of strategy number three during 1984. But that would mean further loss of the political initiative, which in fact began to slip from Mrs Thatcher's grasp as soon as the fundamental dilemma struck the new cabinet into a heap last autumn.

The Labour Party is in no position to take advantage of these troubles. It is all very well for Mr Kinnoch to expatiate on the revival of true socialist democracy, with bags of real worker participation, and of the restoration of "production" to the socialist canon. But how can a party which has just reaffirmed undying close relations with the trade unions - unpopular, undemocratic and self-interested as they are - devise a productive strategy? Does anyone really think that nationalizing the banks and renationalizing all the bits of industry that the Conservatives have just sold off, will cause investment to appear in the right places? Will a siege economy and withdrawal from the EEC do the trick?

The Alliance for its part, appears to be slightly more purposeful on these economic matters since, in order to reflate, it is at least prepared to grasp the nettle of an incomes policy. But the Alliance knows, and everyone else knows, that there are huge blank spaces in its prospectus where economic policy is supposed to be.

For the moment, however, the actions of Labour and the Alliance are irrelevant. The central issue of British politics in 1984 is in the Government's hands. It is whether Mrs Thatcher has the energy, commitment and authority to impose a decisive and probably painful solution, one way or the other, on some adroit and difficult ministers, and on a fractious and skittish parliamentary party.

Prime ministerial New Year verbiage about "toughness" and so forth means absolutely nothing, of course, except in that she is feeling defensive. What matters is whether she can make up her own mind, and then make the policy stick. My impression is that if she cannot do it in the next 12 months, she neve will, and her personal decline will gather pace.

Philip Howard

Sam, Sam, pick up thy Newspeak

Dr Samuel Johnson: Sir, the reciprocal civility of authors is one of the most risible scenes in the farce of life. But I felicitate you that next year your romance 1984 is to be puffed and reassessed, and even read. The mills of publicity are already grinding. I ask whether you have any posthumous cpegegesis that you would care to deliver about your artributions prognostications. George Orwell (Eric Blair): I chose 1984 as the title and date of the book only as a second thought, and I could see even then that it was going to be a difficult year, when the pigeons came home to roost. The most surprising thing that has happened is that the language has proliferated into cotton wool rather than shrunk into steel. My Newspeak was meant to reduce the vocabulary, eliminate nuance, and provide a simple black-and-white language for the inhabitants of Airstrip One, for whom all modes of thought other than the correct one would be impossible. In fact the language has become so euphemistic and inflated with gobbledeegook that it is common for entire speeches to be made and articles written on foundations of painted smoke rather than any thought at all.

Sam: Sir, that is to use language to break wind rather than to convey thought in precise words. But in all this retrospection of your peoples, you suffer not alone. Every writer has the same difficulties, and perhaps, every writer talks of them more than he thinks. Orwell: You too, Dr Johnson, are about to suffer from the glare of publicity, for 1984 is, I think, the two-hundredth anniversary of your death. I imagine that we are about to have solemn bicentenary celebrations and commemoration from the publishers, the booksellers, and perhaps even from some of the many who still read and love your works. Sam: We must clear our minds of cant about these anniversaries. That deathbed that I feared so much, so unnecessarily, for so much of my life may seem a sorry occasion for celebration. But we both worked, miserably poor, in Grub Street. We both know that there is nothing more appropriate than an anniversary as a peg on which to hang a pious article. The publishers and scribblers must eat.

Orwell: I hear that there is to be a Johnson international conference in July in Lichfield, London and Pembroke College, Oxford, this nest of singing birds, where you were a gay and frolicsome fellow, and passed the happiest part of your life. Sam: Sir, I was mad and violent. It was bitterness which they mistook for frolic. I was miserably poor, and I thought to fight my way by my literature and my wit, so I disregarded all power and all authority.

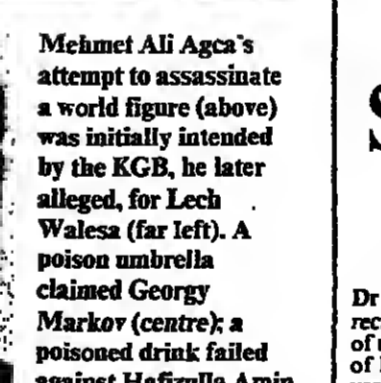
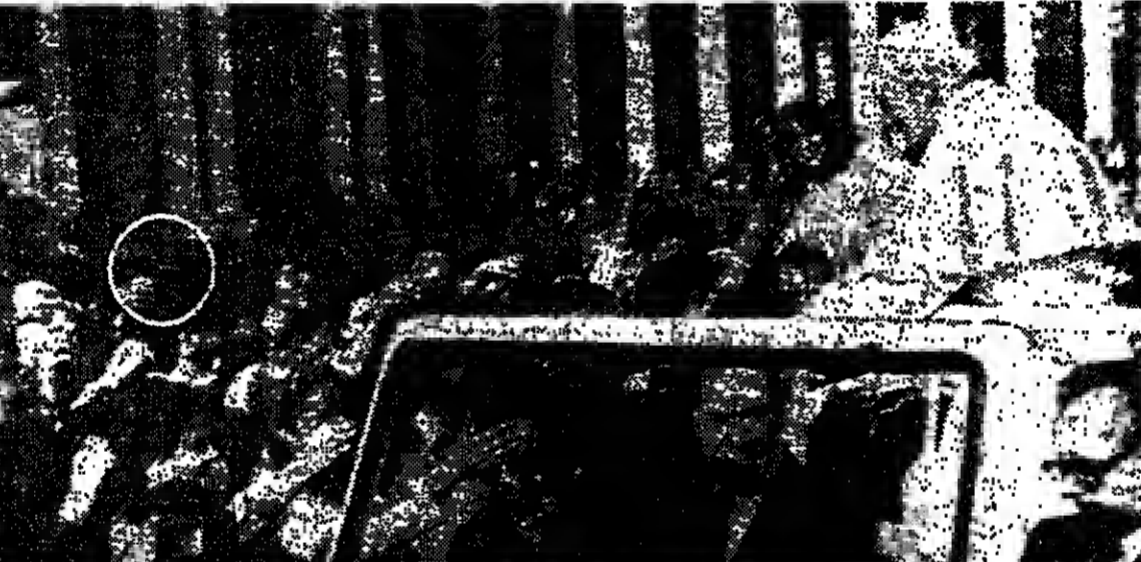
Orwell: Does it occur to you, Dr Johnson, that we are an odd pair of friends to find together, apart from the anniversary we share in 1984? Sam: I am Tory and a Jacobite; you are a republican and even a vile Whig, but a socialist. And yet we share a bottom of Englishness. Orwell: We both made jokes. We are both praised by people who have never read us, and who would be shocked if they did. We both know the business of writing and living. We both moved at ease through the English class system. Sam: Sir, we are well-matched and good friends. Even if we were not, the rogues would be matching us together in 1984 for identical convenience. Let us solve to enjoy it.

Orwell: I got nearer to it in an essay than in the book 1984. In it I offered as a joke a translation of *Ecclesiastes*, chapter 9, verse 11. You will remember the passage, Sir, about the race not being to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. I turned this into: "Objective consideration of contemporary phenomena compels the conclusion that success or failure in competitive activities exhibits no tendency to be commensurate with innate capacity, but that a considerable element of the unpredictable must invariably be taken into account." That seems to me to be the way in which some politicians, journalists, and sociologists have corrupted the language, into flattery rather than regimentation.

Assassination is known to be a key element in Spetsnaz training. Certain units are assigned to seek and kill all political and military leaders in a target country, thus paralysing the command structure at the time of invasion, or even before an attack is launched. Some of the USSR's best athletes are allocated to such units, in which the human qualities of nerve and discipline are highly prized - just as in the Olympic Games.

Who's next for Russia's killer squads?

Brian Crozier reveals the successes - and failures - of the Soviet Union's reorganized assassination schools



Mehmet Ali Agca's attempt to assassinate a world figure (above) was initially intended by the KGB, he later alleged, for Lech Walesa (far left). A poison umbrella claimed Georgy Markov (centre); a poisoned drink failed against Hafizullah Amin

The Pope will have been more concerned with the state of the soul of the Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca than with the plotters behind him when the two met face to face in Rome's Rebibbia Jail, where Agca is serving a life sentence for his attempt to assassinate John Paul II on May 13, 1981.

Agca caused a brief sensation some months earlier while going between his cell and the reformed inquiry into the plot, and in particular into the "Bulgarian connexion", when he said he had been trained by the KGB. He caused a further sensation by telling Judge Ilario Martella's court of inquiry that the KGB had trained him to kill not the Pope but Lech Walesa, who visited Rome in January that year. Italian security was particularly tight for the Solidarity leader's visit, and the attempt was abandoned. Instead, he fired at the Pope as his open-top vehicle passed through a throng of pilgrims in St Peter's Square. It is hard to say which, if any, of Agca's statements is true, and the inquiry now seems likely to peter out in a welter of unproven allegations, alibis and contested evidence.

There is, however, a reality independent of charge and counter-charge: the KGB does have a highly trained, professional sabotage and assassination unit. Originally known as Department V, the unit was apparently disbanded in the 1970s, after the defection of Oleg Lyalin, its man in London. But it has since been reconstituted, much as the Comintern was reconstituted as the International Department of the ruling Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) two or three years after Stalin had "dissoled" it in 1943.

After Lyalin's defection, 105 Soviet agents were expelled from Britain in September, 1971. Lyalin revealed precise plans for the destruction of the nuclear early warning system at Fylingdales in Yorkshire, and of the long-range communications establishment at Orfordness in Suffolk, and even for the poisoning of London's water supplies.

Officially Department V was dead; in fact, its work was transferred

In the wake of these revelations, the Soviet Politburo decided that the existence of Department V was embarrassing. Its representatives were withdrawn from all over the world.

Officially, Department V was dead. In reality, its machinery was simply transferred to the 8th Department of Directorate S, First Chief Directorate, KGB. The First Chief Directorate is the KGB's arm of foreign intelligence, and Directorate S is responsible primarily for the recruitment, training, infiltration and running of "illegals" - Soviet intelligence officers who, like the notorious "Lonsdale" in the naval secrets case in 1961, merge into the environment of the country to which they are assigned, under an assumed nationality and identity. At the height of the Cold War and throughout the 1950s, strong-arm tactics, including assassination, were

much in use. One of the KGB's predecessors, the MGB (Ministry of State Security), was a frequent practitioner. When the present KGB (Committee of State Security) was set up in 1954, sabotage and assassination were allocated to Department 13.

Favourite targets then were prominent exiles such as Lev Rebet, a Ukrainian émigré leader, who was assassinated in Munich by the Soviet agent Stashinsky in 1957. Occasionally, however, foreigners were selected for removal. Occasionally, too, things went wrong. In 1962, for example, the KGB mounted a plot to kill the Shah, but the operation failed because of a last-minute technical hitch.

At the 8th Department's training complex, known as Balashika - 15 miles east of the Moscow ring road near Gorkovskoye Shosse - selected candidates are trained in sabotage and paramilitary operations. Until four years ago, only a few First Chief Directorate officers were given methodical training in such areas, but the rapid expansion of Soviet adventures abroad over the past few years forced the pace. The main problem was to find enough trained men to take part in, and especially to lead, special operations when the decision to invade Afghanistan was taken in 1979.

Now all Directorate S officers must undergo special operations training, either on first entry or between overseas postings. The "subjects" are assassinations (planning and execution), and sabotage, especially of water supplies, power stations and communications.

At the planning stage of the invasion of Afghanistan the decision was taken to assassinate the then President, Hafizullah Amin, whom Moscow considered not pliant enough. He was eventually killed in his Kabul palace by Soviet special forces, but the KGB had already unsuccessfully attempted to remove him before the invasion.

A Directorate S officer, Lt-Col Televov, was infiltrated into the palace, posing as a cook. Raised in Azerbaijan, Televov could pass as

an Afghan. The plan was for him to slip poison into Amin's daily glass of fruit juice. Amin, however, was well-versed in the history of poisons administered to eastern potentates, and well aware of his precarious hold on power. He had already been diluting his drinks by mixing small quantities from different glasses of juice. Thus diluted, the poison was ineffective.

Soviet citizens do not, incidentally, have the monopoly of the Balashika training facilities. Selected satellite intelligence officers are also "processed" there, and in a different part of the complex, third world "freedom fighters" are also trained.

Involvement of foreign services widens the death machine's scope

The "outsiders" certainly include members of the Bulgarian Secret Service (Dzhurzhava Sigurnost, or DS), who have long had close links with Directorate S, and members of the Cuban DGI (Direccion General de Inteligencia). The involvement of foreign services enormously widens the scope and flexibility of the assassination machine. For sensitive jobs, the Russians can subcontract with Bulgarians, Cubans and others; they in turn can subcontract with professional criminals or freelance terrorists.

In such cases, the hired killers would probably be unaware of the identity of their ultimate paymasters. Given the close control exercised from the start by the KGB over the Bulgarians, in particular, it is inconceivable that the latter would eliminate even their own nationals without consulting the Russians. This is truer still in the event of major targets of no direct Bulgarian interest, such as the Pope or Lech Walesa.

The killing of the BBC Bulgarian language service translator, Georgy Markov, in 1978, would presumably have been an autonomous operation planned in Sofia, but even then the Soviets would have been consulted.

AMULTIN

Whether the United States is more threatened by the actions of the world's... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read.)

GET

For a change, we are... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read.)



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROTEST, NOT SABOTAGE

Two overriding considerations must shape the authorities' handling of the Greenham Common protest. The security of the missiles and the operational function of the base must be guaranteed at all times...

Several raiding parties which have cut through the wire and moved forward towards the heart of the military base, spending several hours before being picked up or giving themselves up...

The missiles are American weapons and it may be presumed that in the last resort American servicemen are responsible for their safety...

It looks as if the civil authorities are getting themselves into a position to be able to mop up the encampments around the perimeter when they judge the moment to have arrived...

Improving the internal security of the military base is still a higher priority than clearing the women from the common, the immediate effect of which would probably be redoubled attempts at interference...

The use of firearms by United States servicemen (stationed in Britain) is governed by rules of engagement designed to ensure that a fire is opened only in accordance with the law of the land...

So long as the women of the "peace camp" simply waved the flag of protest there was little justification for forcibly clearing them off...

Speaking of these matters in a short Commons debate just before the recess, Mr David Mellor, a junior Home Office minister said, "I go so far as to say that if a person has reached the area where that possibility arises [where servicemen would have to consider using firearms] it will be clear that he or she is not in the business of peacefully demonstrating against cruise missiles..."

That is good to know. But what of jurisdiction? The value of rules of engagement depends on how they are enforced.

A royal guide to path of peace

From Mr Richard S. Rowntree Sir There is always the danger of the impact of Christmas Day messages being lost because of assumptions that they are more to do with pious hopes than the actual realities of the world in which we live...

In stressing the need for genuine communication between the peoples of the world in seeking solutions to the uneven North/South distribution of our planet's resources and the requirement for less nationalism and more interdependence...

May 1984 be made the year in which all work for those vital priorities for peace for which the Queen has called.

Yours sincerely, RICHARD S. ROWNTREE, Kingsthorpe, North Yorkshire, December 26.

Promising way to stability in Ireland

From Lady Ewart-Biggs Sir Dr Garret FitzGerald, writing in your columns (December 23), has asked the British Government to join "with constitutional politicians in Ireland in a single urgent effort to create structures which will bring peace and real political progress..."

I believe people on both sides of the Irish Sea could welcome such a commitment. For recognising it as a practical measure to help our two democracies in their fight against the growing common threat, they might now eschew the old fear that any Anglo-Irish rapprochement can come only as a prelude to British withdrawal from Northern Ireland...

Let us hope, for all our sakes, that such a response will be possible and forthcoming. For the increasing pressures and strains under which the British administration in Northern Ireland is struggling can only be relieved by an unequivocal statement of respect and mutual trust between the two governments...

Yours faithfully, JANE EWART-BIGGS, House of Lords, December 23.

How to combat glue-sniffing

From Mr Michael Woolman Sir, Your correspondent, Mrs Lena Joy, asks (December 24) what she can or should do when confronted with 10 or 11-year-olds publicly sniffing glue along the Bayswater Road...

As head teacher of a large primary school near the Bayswater Road my advice is simple and straightforward. Mrs Joy must quietly and confidently approach the children and firmly ask them to give her the glue and the bags used for sniffing. They should then be clearly told the materials will be handed in at the nearest police station and can be claimed from there...

The children, of course, may not cooperate. If they run away they will, at least, be aware of adult concern. If they refuse to hand over the glue and bags and/or become abusive Mrs Joy must tell them, quietly and politely, that what they are doing is bad for them and the incident will be reported to the police immediately...

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL WOOLMAN, Head teacher, Fox Primary School, Kensington Place, W8, December 25.

The new London

From Mr John Stefanidis Sir, Piazzas and towers are replacing the squares and crescents that have made London uniquely English. Worse is to come if the proposed extension to the National Gallery were to be built. It will be an alien and banal presence in the triumphant vastness of Trafalgar Square...

There have been too many compromises and the public is never sufficiently informed, or given enough time to protest. How many people know that permission has been granted for a 300ft office tower at Little Britain, near St Paul's?

There was an international competition under the aegis of the London Docklands Development Corporation for the Elephant and Castle, south of Tower Bridge, on the river. Documentation for the competition was issued on August 8, 1983, and the entries were to be returned by October 3, 1983. August is not a propitious month for announcing a competition and not enough time was given for architects from all over the world to submit their entries...

Hay's Wharf on the South Bank has received special permission for another monumentally dull office development. Despite the distinction of the late architect, Mies van der Rohe, the Mansion House Square proposals by him should be redesigned with the character of the City in mind...

The risk to London is more buildings which will remain as unloved as the Hayward Gallery, the National Army Museum, the new Wellington Barracks and the Barbican.

Yours faithfully, JOHN STEFANIDIS, 6 Bursall Street, SW5.

Penny-patching

From Mr Paul Knapman Sir, At lunch today the conversation turned to the difficulty with the half-penny coin. One member complained that when paying by credit card his garage always "rounded-up" in favour of the garage, but his neighbour announced that his garage "rounded down" in his favour...

There was then an interjection by a scientist. He took the view that where there was a fraction of a penny it should be rounded up or down in each case so as to leave an even number. The lawyer opposite said that he thought this was an equitable solution. Unfortunately no philosopher was present.

Yours faithfully, PAUL KNAPMAN, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1, December 21.

Wing and prayer

From Miss M. J. Dean-Smith Sir, It was reported in The Times (December 23) and elsewhere that angels destined for German Christmas trees were subject to tax unless they were winged. Your learned Correspondent pointed out that pre-Christian angels were wingless and were endowed with them only about the fourth century A.D. But what about the seraphim, the second in the nine orders of the angelic hierarchy inhabiting the supracrestal sphere? Isaiah, a "pre-Christian", says they had six wings (Isa. vi) and with two they did fly. Crashaw, Milton and even Pope knew that the wings of seraphim were of fire, only lesser orders of angels had wings of feathers, and merely two. Yours faithfully, MARGARET DEAN-SMITH, 30 Beacon Hill Court, Hindhead, Surrey.

From Mr John Field Sir, When we exchanged presents on Christmas Day five were books. Two were printed in Hongkong, one in Italy, one in Belgium and one in England. Yours faithfully, JOHN FIELD, Whitebrook, Widbrook Common, Cookham, Berkshire.

Sellafield thoughts

From Dr John Twidell Sir, Obviously 1984 has arrived. In reporting to Parliament about the radioactive emissions from the Sellafield reprocessing plant, Mr Patrick Jenkin stated in consecutive sentences...

"The radioactivity in the samples was well below the level that would constitute any hazard to the general population in the area" and "The main concern is that anyone handling the more active samples from the beach could exceed the annual dose limit for the skin after only comparatively brief direct contact."

The statements are a clear case of 2+2=5. The public is being treated as innumerate. What is "comparatively brief" and "irritational" ("below the level" yet "exceeds the limit")? Should we now expect notices on the Sellafield beach to read: "This beach is safe for the public when the public does not enter?"

Yours sincerely, JOHN TWIDELL, University of Strathclyde, Department of Applied Physics, John Anderson Building, 107 Rottenrow, Glasgow, December 23.

Judicial appointments

From Professor John Griffith Sir, Despite my calling, I do not wish to argue with Mr Scruton when he suggests (nature, December 20) that judges should not be appointed from those who read law at a university. He says they need "imagination, a wide-ranging literary competence and common sense" and who shall say he is wrong?

On December 7, 1983, the Lord Chancellor dismissed an Old Bailey judge who had been convicted on two charges of smuggling. This seems to me to raise questions closely related to and, perhaps, even more important than those concerned with the training of judges.

Other countries have other methods which seem to avoid the involvement of politicians. Might there not here be a cause for inquiry? Yours truly, J. A. G. GRIFFITH, The London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, WC2, December 21.

Non-nuclear options

From Mr Walter Stein Sir, Your leader of December 5 asserts that "some lip service is paid (by CND) to the need to study alternatives to nuclear defence, but the disciplines involved in a posture of armed neutrality are based on the fundamental premise that peace has to be fought for and always defended. Those premises are totally alien to the unilateralist doctrine."

This assertion is totally groundless. It also rests upon an ill-informed public image of the unilateralist doctrine for which The Times itself bears an important share of responsibility. The leader's assertion is groundless since unilateral nuclear disarmament is wholly distinct from position-denying the premise that "peace has to be fought for and always defended" or "which favour total military disarmament."

Unilateral nuclear disarmament can be based on strategic judgments that nuclear deterrence, especially in its present forms, is a recklessly irrational means of defence; or on the moral judgment that "the megaton nuclear bomb is the nearest thing to incarnate Evil in this world" - as another of your leaders (November 18) so memorably conceded.

Either of these judgments, or a combination of both, suffices to authorize "the unilateralist doctrine." And a large proportion of CND members support unilateral nuclear disarmament on these grounds. There is nothing "alien" to the premise that "peace has to be fought for and always defended" in these positions; and, though CND naturally includes absolute pacifist (a commitment no believer in Just War ethics should fail to respect), its main moral commitment is "nuclear pacifism" - i.e. the conclusion that "the nearest thing to incarnate Evil in this world" can never be justifiably used and that therefore its threatened use (involving conditional intentions to use it) also cannot be justified. Whilst absolute pacifism of course entails nuclear pacifism, nuclear pacifism does not entail absolute pacifism, and it is highly damaging to the currency of public debate to project "the unilateralist doctrine" as "alien" to any constructive concern for defence. There is, in fact, clear evidence that a serious search for alternatives is taking place within the unilateralist movement. A month or two before the election, after more than two years of research, the Alternative Defence Commission published a report, Defence without the Bomb, exploring the implications for British and European defence policy of a nuclear unilateralism which stresses "that peace has to be fought for and always defended."

Most of the responses this report evoked acknowledged its serious relevance to present defence dilemmas. It seems doubly unfortunate that The Times, which chose to ignore its publication, now chooses to assert that "the unilateralist doctrine" can only pay lip service to such concerns. It is not merely a question of fair understanding. At a time when the peace movement on the one hand and ever increasing numbers of Nato authorities on the other are coming to share a common perception that radical transformations in the business of defence must now be taken in hand if the business of human life is to continue, this measure of common ground should surely be cherished and nourished. Yours faithfully, WALTER STEIN, 148 Carly Hill, Middleton, Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

Jobs in Gibraltar

From the Leader of the Gibraltar Opposition Sir, Your editorial of December 13 does not mention that not only the TGWU but also the main Opposition party, the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce and many other people in Gibraltar oppose commercialisation of the naval dockyard as a viable economic alternative that the British Government pledged itself to provide Gibraltar with in the Defence White Paper of 1981.

The reports of the consultants engaged both by the Ministry of Overseas Development and by the Gibraltar Government, if made public, would confirm what your editorial affirms, that "the hard fact is that there is no viable alternative". These reports have been made available to the Opposition but only on a strictly confidential basis and I cannot therefore expand on this aspect.

Your editorial makes comparisons between Gibraltar and Chatham. Surely only if Chatham was economically blockaded by a foreign hostile state to make its inhabitants surrender British sovereignty would such a comparison be valid. The operation of the naval dockyard in Gibraltar is acknowledged to be the base of the Gibraltar economy.

It is very possible and indeed probable that the economy of Gibraltar could be diversified in a situation where we have a normal frontier between Gibraltar and Spain and friendly relations exist, as was the case before the blockade when Gibraltar was economically self-sufficient.

By closing the naval dockyard before the Gibraltar economy can be diversified an additional burden has been placed on our besieged economy which unfortunately a commercial ship-repair operation will do little to relieve. Please do not misunderstand opposition to the agreement reached between the Gibraltar and British governments as ingratitude, but rather as deep concern that a commercial operation of the naval dockyard cannot possibly replace that dockyard as the base of our economy. Yours faithfully, PETER J. ISOLA, Leader of the Opposition, House of Assembly, Gibraltar, December 16.

Heard to be done

From Mr A. F. Daly Sir, The press coverage of the recent "witchcraft trial" in Livorno might suggest to the British reader that competent professional interpreters do not exist in Italy. This is not the case. The International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) has about 120 members in Italy, some 15 of whom are domiciled in Florence, a mere 50 miles from where the trial was held. None of them was called upon to interpret however, which is not surprising in view of the huge discrepancy between Italian court rates and those charged by qualified professional interpreters (these being between 15 and 30 times higher).

Small wonder that communication through the "court interpreters" produced such a stream of printable copy for the newspapers. But, on the other hand, what a disgrace in this age of advanced European integration! Until the Italian judiciary recognises interpreting as a professional skill and agrees to pay the going professional rate, we can expect to see such cases continue to enrich the local folklore while making a laughing-stock of justice. Yours faithfully, A. F. DALY, President, International Association of Conference Interpreters, As of 18 Circus Street, SE10.

Wing and prayer

From Miss M. J. Dean-Smith Sir, It was reported in The Times (December 23) and elsewhere that angels destined for German Christmas trees were subject to tax unless they were winged. Your learned Correspondent pointed out that pre-Christian angels were wingless and were endowed with them only about the fourth century A.D. But what about the seraphim, the second in the nine orders of the angelic hierarchy inhabiting the supracrestal sphere? Isaiah, a "pre-Christian", says they had six wings (Isa. vi) and with two they did fly. Crashaw, Milton and even Pope knew that the wings of seraphim were of fire, only lesser orders of angels had wings of feathers, and merely two. Yours faithfully, MARGARET DEAN-SMITH, 30 Beacon Hill Court, Hindhead, Surrey.

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A MULTINATIONAL FORCE FOR ALL THAT

American impatience with Unesco is easy to understand. Unesco wastes money and does a lot of silly things. It puts out a good deal of high-minded drivel. It gets involved in political disputes over matters such as the status of Israel. Too often its members indulge in the luxury of abusing the developed nations that provide most of its funds. It wastes time and money on pernicious ideas like the "new world information and communications order", which is a cover for attempts by undemocratic regimes to control information. It deserves a bit of a shake-up and a fresh look at its aims and programmes. Probably it also deserves a new director-general.

Whether it deserves to lose the United States altogether, as is now threatened by Washington, is more questionable. Its imperfections reflect the imperfections of the world. Its composition reflects the emergence of new nations. When some of these rail against their richer benefactors they are saying something genuine about their own politics whether justified or not. When political disputes intrude they do so because a sufficient number of members think they are important. When woolly dreams prevail they do so because of innate human tendencies to fantasize

likely that the destruction or drastic reduction of Unesco's work would leave large gaps in worthwhile fields of endeavour. Does the United States intend to plug these gaps by spending the money it saves on direct bilateral assistance to the same or equivalent projects? If so, it will need to explain why the projects are not worthy of American support. Strong and clear arguments on these points would be more persuasive than wholly justified but not wholly relevant complaints about minor programmes and the idiosyncrasies that go on around the periphery and at meetings.

Great powers tend to lose dignity when they appear too thin-skinned or too upset when a joint enterprise does not go entirely their way. The best hope now is that the prospect of American withdrawal will shake Unesco into a re-examination of its shortcomings and thence to reforms which enable the Americans to re-consider. This is not an impossible task, especially if the Americans play an active reforming role in the coming year. If they merely sit on the sidelines and sulk the chances are that Unesco will deteriorate and American interests will not reap any noticeable benefits.

Even if the answer to some of these questions is yes it remains

GETTING CLOSER TO THE PAST

"For a change, we had quite a big issue to decide at the Legislation Committee. Ages ago... Harold Wilson had persuaded the Cabinet to accept in principle the reduction of the fifty-year limitation on the publication of state documents, to thirty years. Whitehall didn't like this, and had resorted to the usual delaying tactics. There was no doubt about it, the Foreign Office had launched a counter-attack."

Richard Crossman's Diary drove a coach and horses through the thirty-year rule. As a result, we are let into the secret discussion behind this exemplary reform enacted by the second Wilson administration. His entry for April 25, 1967, depicts the unease felt by the guardians of official secrecy at the prospect of the public and the press getting hold of thirty-year-old stories missed, as so many were, by the political journalists of the day.

Whitehall's reservations found an eloquent spokesman when the Public Records Bill passed through the House of Lords in May, 1967. Lord Bridges, former Head of the Civil Service, said he doubted if a thirty-year rule would "give public servants the degree of confidence which they ought to have so that they can put out the facts absolutely fearlessly without any thought of their being disclosed prematurely". Bridges thought a forty-year rule "would be absolutely safe".

Despite his plea for four decades of confidentiality, the campaign by Britain's contemporary historians for a twenty-year mitigation of the fifty-year rule established by the Public Records Act 1958, was crowned with success. This time, roles have been reversed. Sir Douglas Wass, Lord Bridges's successor-five as head of the Treasury, has opened the campaign to trim the thirty-year rule while the contemporary historians have sat in silent contentment at their table in the Public Record Office calmly turning the pages of the Atlee administration.

Indeed, a fissure is instantly detectable between their views and those of Sir Douglas. Some scholars maintain that the thirty-year rule has already sullied the purity of the archive. Contemporary civil servants - having seen the discomfiture of Foreign Office men, involved as young officials in forcibly repatriating Russians in 1945-46, as a series of chilling minutes have been unwrapped - are more cautious in what they now commit to paper. When the 1940's files were created there was not even a fifty-year rule. Some historians conclude that if you want the truth to emerge one day the price to be paid is a fairly hefty period of secrecy.

Sir Douglas Wass has very different motives for what he

implys, though does not state, would be a ten-year rule (except for sensitive foreign, defence and intelligence material). They rest on a wider public interest not on the narrow, scholarly premise of the historian. The fifth of his Reith lectures, though it stressed the desirability of enabling the scholar to undertake documentary research while those who made the policy were still in a condition to be interviewed, was all about informing the citizen about what is done in his name by government. Sir Douglas mentioned the Bridges caveat, only to dismiss it. It did not justify a retention period of thirty years.

Public interest in this instance does outweigh scholarly preference. Even at the easily exaggerated cost of diluting the archive - officials under pressure do not constantly have the annual release at the Public Record Office in mind - it is of considerable benefit to have the recent past in a clearer focus for those who would make sense of the present. For example, if the Wass rule prevailed and not that established by the Public Records Act 1967, next week the newspapers would be carrying at least some of the inside story of Mr Heath's 1973 winter crisis, a period already distorted by myth-makers of one kind or another in Mrs Thatcher's Tory Party.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Prince and the Princess of Wales are to visit Italy from October 14 to 29 next year at the invitation of the Italian Government.

Birthdays today

Mr David Bedford, 34; Mr Anthony Crisp, 63; Sir Reginald Groom, 77; Lord Harvington, 76; Lord Howick of Glendale, 64; Professor J. Houghton, 57; Air Chief Marshal Sir Edmund Huddleston, 75; Professor Rosalinde Hurley, 54; Mr John F. Mitchell, 97; Sir John Pridmore, 72; Sir Albert Robinson, 68; Lord Taylor, 73; Lord Terrington, 68; Sir Eric Weiss, 75; Sir David Willocks, 64; Mr Clifford Williams, 57.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr John Rimginton to be Director General of the Health and Safety Executive for five years from January 1. He succeeds Mr John Locke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. J. Hay and Dr C. M. Proby. The engagement is announced between Stephen Hay, son of Mr and Mrs John Hay and Mrs Sally Hay, of Cheltenham, and Charlotte, daughter of Sir Peter Proby, Bt, and Lady Proby, of Elton, Peterborough.

Marriages

Mr Q. D. Skinner and Miss C. J. Clevely. The engagement is announced between Quentin, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Peter V. Skinner, of Ramhurst Oast, Leigh, Kent, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John D. Clevely, of Letters Farmhouse, Hildenborough, Kent.

Marriages

Mr A. L. Ratray and Mrs N. A. Hay. The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Farnham, between Mr Lachlan Ratray, youngest son of Captain Ratray of Ratray and the late Mrs Ratray of Ratray, and Miss Nicola Hay, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs J. M. Hay, Father Richard Ince, officiated, assisted by Canon McWilliam.

Marriages

Mr R. Holland and Mrs E. Goodrow. The marriage has taken place between Mr Robert Holland and Mrs Elizabeth Goodrow.

Science report

Throwing light on worm dynamics

Worms are among the busiest and most numerous of workers under the soil. Most farmers and gardeners are content to let the creatures work in their own way. They rely on the traditional assumption that worms are a sign of healthy soil and that land which is shunned by the beasts has something wrong with it.

Gatwick expansion opposed

Destruction of villages feared

Conservationists in the Surrey stockbroker belt fear that privatization of the British Airports Authority could lead to massive expansion at Gatwick and the virtual destruction of dozens of attractive Surrey and West Sussex villages.

Church news

The Rev C E Tomalin, Vicar of Christ Church, Oxford, has been elected to the post of Bishop of Exeter.

Alan Whicker returns for BBC winter duty

Alan Whicker, the veteran television reporter, is returning to the BBC for his winter schedules announced yesterday.

Latest wills

Other estates include (net, before tax): Cook Mrs Eva Blanche, of Brentwood, Essex, £218,046.

Bottle bank scheme faltering

Britain's recycling scheme for glass and metal, started in 1981, is faltering badly. The Glass Manufacturers Federation says it is "incredibly frustrated" by lack of government and local authority support for its bottle banks and manufacturers of cans report little more progress.

University news

Manchester Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following: LL.D. Mr Kenneth Durham, Chairman of Unilever; Judge Taslim Olawale Elias, President of the International Court of Justice.

Youth honoured

The Royal Humane Society's 1983 Saturday Gold Medal has been awarded to Stephen Jay, aged 16, of Victoria, Australia, for saving a man who fell in front of a train at Victoria Station, Victoria, in February.

Half yearly promotions in the Armed Forces

Royal Navy: The provisional selections for promotion to date December 31 are confirmed. The following provisional selections have been made for promotion to date June 30, 1984.

OBITUARY

SIR LIONEL RUSSELL Influence in education

Sir Lionel Russell, C.B.E., who died on December 26 at the age of 80, was one of the leading figures in English education during the quarter of a century which followed the passing of the 1944 Education Act.

DENNIS WILSON

Dennis Wilson, a founder member of the Beach Boys, the American pop group, died on December 28 after diving into the water from a boat at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles. He was 39.

DR A. S. PATERSON

Dr Arthur Spencer Paterson, scholar, psychiatrist and physician died on December 27 at the age of 83.

SIR JAMES CURRIE

Sir James Currie, KBE, CMG, who died on December 24 at the age of 76, was formerly in the Diplomatic Service.

Advertisement for 'Who can offer a little more...' featuring 'The Sleeping Beauty Channel 4' and 'DANT'.

THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson presents his personal honours list for 1983, and offers a little New Year diversion

Who could displace the old masters?

Best Picture of 1983: Without question, Ingmar Bergman's opulent recreation of the...

Most Outrageous Musical: Sylvester Stallone's Staying Alive.

Most Promising Newcomers: Peter Reiger (Local Hero), Julie Walters (Educating Rita)...

Star of the Year (any year): Lillian Gish, who wowed them at the Dominion...

Worst Title: I Dismember Mama.

Valet: The year's obituaries included among directors the incomparable Luis Buñuel...

Best Film Festival: Tyneside, because it has a mind of its own.

Best Film Book: Virgin Books' Film Year Book Volume Two (£5.95)...

Vogue of the Year: Restoring mutilated films, in the wake of Napoleon. It is all right so long as they stick to A Star is Born...

Mistake of the Year: Remaking Breathless.

Turkeys of the Year: The Hunger.



Problem pictures: A (left), B, C



Monty Python's The Meaning of Life.

Worst Title: I Dismember Mama.

Valet: The year's obituaries included among directors the incomparable Luis Buñuel, George Cukor, Robert Aldrich and the Japanese enfant terrible Shuji Terayama...

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time he has been recognized as an auteur with a personal retrospective tribute.

He was a Londoner, born in 1891. A brief career in the London theatre was cut short by the First World War, after which he decided to try his luck in America...

Goulding's great strengths as a director were a highly literate understanding of the text and great skill with actors...

To start the New Year, with no new commercial films on release, the National Film Theatre's survey of the work of Edmund Goulding has much to recommend it.

though this appears to be the first

Crawford, Mary Astor, Constance Bennett, Joan Blondell, Ginger Rogers and Marilyn Monroe.

A large part of his prolific Thirties output was melodrama, of the type in which fatal, lingering but never indecorous illnesses figure frequently.

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surprising parts. As a song-writer he was responsible for "Love Your Magic Spell is Everywhere" as well as the title-song of his own 1956 Teenage Rebel.

To pass a few minutes of the New Year weekend, here is a short movie quiz, with questions ranging from simple to tricky:

- 1. In 1952 Marion Morrison and Maureen FitzSimmons starred in a film made in Ireland by Sean Aloysius O'Feeney. What was its title?
2. (picture A): Whose hand holds the camera? In what film? But whose are the legs reflected in the lens?
3. What film was advertised as "The Tragedy of a Man Who Couldn't Make Up His Mind"?
4. What do these gentlemen have in common: Spencer Tracy, Fritz

Kortner, Cary Grant, Gary Cooper, David Bowie, John Wayne, Robert Donat?

5. Which film (a) provided the national song of America's New Deal era? (b) allegedly ruined the trade in men's underwears?

6. In what films were these musical numbers performed: "Today I Feel So Happy", "Beyond the Blue Horizon", "Isn't It Romantic"?

7. What do these ladies have in common: Rita Hayworth, Vivienne Romance, Edna Purviance, Raquel Meller, Geraldine Farrar, Theda Bara, Pola Negri?

8. (pictures B and C): Find the lady. Who are these two players, seen in uncharacteristic costumes?

[Answers with next week's film review.]

Television Eloquent evocation

The second part of Land of the Lakes (Channel 4) - otherwise known as the Land of the Orange Rucksacks - concentrated upon the village of Troutbeck...

advertising until the past claimed him. It was in part melodramatic (it might have been better as a "mystery" series at an earlier hour, and for children), but by no means wholly so.

The concluding part of The World of Stanley Holloway (BBC 1) was concerned with his last years, when he left the stage and worked principally on the screen - old songs like "Brown Boots" and "London's Pride" gave way to My Fair Lady and various appearances on American television shows...

Mr Holloway's great skill was in embodying the "lovable Cockney", and so sturdy a role can survive practically anything. It was certainly enough for him, although his own personality remained curiously absent from last night's programme. He was described as "pleasant" and "agreeable" although nobody, not even his sons, seemed able to pierce beneath his carapace of benign amiability. He simply possessed the "desire to perform", and would no doubt have been quite satisfied with this show-business documentary, which was exhaustive but somewhat conventional in its approach and in its emphases.

This was also the informing principle of Pattern of Roses (Channel 4): a teenager co-voicing to the country becomes possessed by images from the heavy part of the century. This kind of story exerts its own power, and it was tolerably well acted - although sometimes "atmospheric" music tended to drown the performances. There were some nice touches, however - a modern clergyman who wanted his daughter to become a probation officer, and the viscous teenager himself who seemed destined for a career in

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TOYOTA advertisement featuring images of Corolla cars from 1966, 1970, 1974, and 1979. Text includes: 'PERFECTION WAS NEVER ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT.', 'It's taken unique equipment to design the new Corolla. Ever. Because we've always listened to what owners have to say, criticism as well as praise. So each new Corolla is a better car. Which is why it's been the world's biggest seller for ten years. And the new 5th generation Corolla is, as Motor magazine put it, "perhaps the best yet from Japan." So we're assured of plenty of satisfied drivers. Just like the last ten million. TOYOTA', and 'THE NEW COROLLA. THE CAR THE WORLD MADE PERFECT'. Prices listed: GL SALOON £5133, GL LIFTBACK £5307, DX ESTATE £4991.

Advertisement for DANTON at CAMDEN PLAZA RITZY CINEMA, featuring 'Magnificent...' and showtimes.

Advertisement for CATE at RITZY CINEMA, featuring 'A STAR IS BORN' and 'THE LEOPARD'.

John Percival

Account ends on dull note

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings begin today. Dealings end, Jan 15. Contango Day, Jan 16. Settlement Day, Jan 23.

The chill wind of higher US interest rates sent a shudder of apprehension through the London stock market yesterday...

The overnight rise in the Fed rate from 9 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent took many dealers by surprise and prompted a bout of nervous profit taking which was exaggerated by the thin conditions following the seasonal break...

Gifts were in a subdued mood as the Bank of England took the opportunity to release a total of £600m of Government stock consisting of £300m of Treasury Index-linked 2 per cent 1990, £100m of Treasury 3 per cent 1986 and £200m of Treasury 3 per cent 1987.

Leading equities were mostly lower, although some managed to close above their worst levels helped by sporadic bursts of new time support. Distillers added 2p to 240p still excited by the prospect of a mystery buyer...

25p lower mainly on lack of interest as investors continued to enjoy the extended break. On the foreign exchange market the pound rallied 1.35 cents to \$1.4455.

Mr David Wickins, chairman of British Car Auctions, is pressing ahead with plans to inject the group's US auction business into Sandgate Corp. the listed New Jersey Ford dealer...

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Manufacturers prompted falls in Becthams 5p to 308p, Fisons 5p to 277p and Glaxo 7p to 710p. The atrocious weather conditions in the US are expected to result in large insurance claims for some of our bigger insurance composites with interest there at the close, but still showed losses on the day.

Commercial Union fell 5p to 182p after its French acquisition, while General Accident lost 4p to 456p. Guardian Royal 3p to 518p, Minister Assets 3p to 376p, Phoenix Assurance 12p to 493p and Sam Alliance 10p to 214.27.

But the cold weather has been good news for oil shares hoping for a pick-up in demand and the improvement in prices on the oil spot market. BP added 6p to 406p, Bristol 3p to 198p, Clyde Petroleum 3p to 29p. Only Eglinton

and Scottish Marine Oil 14p at 291p, Ultramar 2p at 614p and Shell 5p at 566p. The Irish oil producers failed to join in the

Do not be fooled by the recent support for Electronic Rentals where Phillips has a large stake and B&T is tipped as a likely bidder. Broker Phillips & Drew in its latest survey of the TV and video sector says a prospective P&O of 24 gearing of around 41 per cent means the shares are over-valued. With only a marginal increase in pretax profits to £12.5m this year expected P & D expects the underperformance to continue. The shares were unchanged at 51p yesterday.

revival with Aram Energy losing 2p to 70p, Atlantic Resources 25p to 640p, and Buzza Resources 2p to 29p. Only Eglinton

put up any fight closing unchanged at 290p, after 280p. It has certainly been a memorable account for House of Fraser. Yesterday the shares slipped 2p to 248p, but are still 22p up on the account helped by renewed speculative support. The rest of the stores sector has shrugged off the disappointment of the low level of attendances for the New Year sales following the recent Harrods bomb outrage and the threat of a bombing campaign by terrorists in London's West End.

Debenhams wiped out an earlier fall to close unchanged at 156p and MFI added 5p to 161p. Paterns 3p at 46p and Waring & Gillows 3p at 95p. On the takeover front Electronic Machine slipped 5p to 67p on profit falling after the board's statement earlier in the week that it knew of no reason for the present strength of the share price.

Renewed speculative attention was again focused on Highgate & Job, 13p up at 190p, as the battle for control of the company continued.

THE TIMES 1000 1983/84 The World's Top Companies Full statistical details and addresses: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc.

FINANCIAL Executive Why London sponsor

RECENT ISSUES Table with columns: Issue, Price, Yield, etc. Includes items like Agrihold 10p, Cable & Wireless 50p, etc.

BRITISH FUNDS Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Yield, etc. Includes items like British Bond, British Equity, etc.

MEDIEVAL Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Yield, etc. Includes items like Medieval Bond, Medieval Equity, etc.

LONGS Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Yield, etc. Includes items like Long Bond, Long Equity, etc.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Yield, etc. Includes items like Commonwealth Bond, Commonwealth Equity, etc.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Yield, etc. Includes items like Local Authorities Bond, Local Authorities Equity, etc.

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BREWERS AND DISTILLERS Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Yield, etc. Includes items like Breweries Bond, Breweries Equity, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Yield, etc. Includes items like Commercial Bond, Commercial Equity, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, etc. Lists various companies and their stock prices.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward Table with columns: Market rates, Forward rates, etc.

Money Market Rates Table with columns: Discount Rate, Treasury Bills, etc.

Other Markets Table with columns: Australia, Hong Kong, etc.

Dollar Spot Rates Table with columns: 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, etc.

Euro-Spot Rates Table with columns: 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS Table with columns: Alliance Trust, etc.

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PROPERTY Table with columns: Allot Ltd, etc.

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Eagle Share support advertisement with text: Eagle Share support, share price, etc.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Lonrho declined to sponsor \$1m Derby

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, as even his bitterest adversaries admit, is a man of extraordinary charm. It is, therefore, all the more regrettable that he so often communicates through lawyers, especially one who abruptly ends a conversation by putting down the telephone. Otherwise, in their written response to my column of December 23 ("Fraser expects Lonrho to attempt the obvious"), Mr Rowland and a firm of solicitors called Cameron Markby could not have been more helpful.

which the sign had brightened up the premises. I am pleased to hear it: what offends some people usually delights others. But it is bad news about the Derby. Competition among would-be sponsors is generally a good thing.

Travel guide to an investor's paradise

In London shares have surged impressively to new peaks, yet the sophisticated and alert investor could have had an even more lucrative run in some of the world's smaller stock markets. That at least is a theory supported by the latest statistical exercise by stockbrokers Wood, Mackenzie. Their international market survey shows that, up to December 23 certainly, Mexico, famed for oil, tequila and sovereign debt, was the place to be. After last year's traumatic experience, when Mexico teetered on the verge of bankruptcy and both peso and stock market collapsed, resurgence has been dramatic. The fledgling Mexican stock market outperformed the rest with a staggering rise of 285.74 per cent.

The pound bobbed above \$1.45 yesterday for the first time in three weeks, given a gentle push from higher spot oil prices, as the dollar weakened on fading expectations of a rise in American interest rates.

Consortium buys Acrow subsidiary

A Manchester manufacturer of pressure vessels for the oil industry, whose closure was announced in September, is being bought by a consortium of businessmen led by Mr Nat Puri, an Indian-born entrepreneur. Acrow, the troubled heavy engineering group, closed the consistently loss-making Adamson and Hatchett, which once employed nearly 400 people, part of its survival strategy. The company's assets were put up for sale in the process.

conventional stocks, designed in appeal to high taxpayers. The £100m of 3 per cent Treasury 1986 and £200m of 3 per cent Treasury 1987 are to replace exhausted short-dated low coupon stocks.

Norway follows UK in pegging oil price

Britain's pre-Christmas decision to leave North Sea oil prices unchanged in the face of customer pressure for a cut has been vindicated by the surge on the world oil spot market and by Norway's decision to announce next Monday that it is leaving its prices unchanged.

trading starts in earnest after the New Year the dollar may be due for a fall. The latest figures on economic growth, which suggest that the US recovery is slowing, coupled with numerous forecasts from among others, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, predicting further deceleration during the coming year, have dampened fears that the Federal Reserve Board will move to tighten credit policy to keep the lid on inflation.

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Capel-Cure Myers, the stock-broking firm, is predicting growth of 2 per cent next year after 2.8 per cent this year, lower than the Treasury's 3 per cent for 1984.

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Australian record

Australian shares reached a record yesterday. The main market index rose by 4.2 points to 769.9 points, spurred on by the industrial index which for the first time passed the 1,000 points mark.

Commercial Union in French deal

Commercial Union Assurance, one of Britain's largest composite insurers, yesterday announced a big expansion of its activities in France. It is taking over, in a £19.4m deal, L'Epargne de France, a French life and savings company.

STOCK EXCHANGES FT Index: 772.5 down 3.1 FT Gilt: 83.15 down 0.22 FT All Shares: 468.89 down 1.12

CURRENCIES LONDON CLOSE Sterling: \$1.4485 up 1.35cents Index: 82.8 up 0.3 DM: 3.9550 up 0.0050 Yen: 112.09 up 0.01

Eagle Star share plan supported

Shareholders of Eagle Star, the subject of competing takeover bids from Allianz Versicherungs and BAT Industries, yesterday agreed a scheme to approve a reorganization of Eagle's capital in the event of a takeover.

Shares hold on to gains

New Yorks (AP - Dow Jones) - Share prices were maintaining small gains in moderate trading yesterday with the Dow Jones Industrial Average 2.85 points up at 1266.06.

Directors' loyalty strained

The Government was urged yesterday by one of its most ardent supporters, the Institute of Directors, to keep its election promises over taxation and public spending.

Further austerity measures on the way

Nigeria's economy is in a critical state, President Shehu Shagari said yesterday, with the 1983 budget deficit likely to be almost twice official predictions.

Radio Clyde goes for USM debut

Radio Clyde, Glasgow's award-winning commercial radio station, is to receive a listing on the Unlisted Securities Market in about six weeks which will probably value the company at more than £3m.

Hong Kong Land to sell £18m office

Hoog Koog Land, the colony's largest property company, has announced another big sale of assets to help reduce its heavy debt burden.

Director's colossal loss of revenue

President Shagari, however, stressed yesterday that if Nigeria is to get fresh money from both the IMF and a "structural adjustment loan" from the World Bank, there would have to be a definite reduction in purchases from abroad and a curtailment of foreign exchange outflows.

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Allied Textile Companies Public Limited Company

The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. Ordinary Shares of 25p each Offer for Sale by Tender by the Bank of England on behalf of H.M. Government

INTEREST RATES Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9 Finance houses base rate 9 1/2 Discount market loans week fixed 9

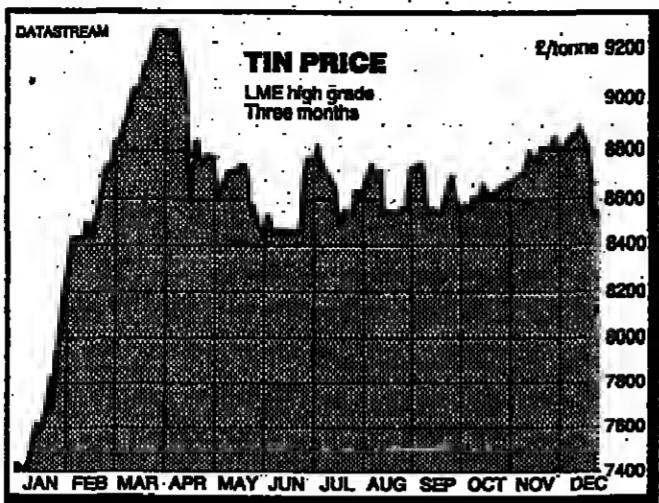
US rates Bank prime rate 11.00 Fed funds 10% Treasury long bond 10 1/2 - 10 1/4

EURO Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Decline in tin's fortunes is likely to continue

Tin must have disappointed its proponents this year. It might reasonably have been expected 12 months ago that a combination of effective price support from the International Tin Agreement and rapid economy growth, particularly in the US, in the second half of this year would have reversed the decline in tin's fortunes. But it was not so, nor does it appear likely to be so.



The chart shows the impact at the beginning of the year of the ITA's export restrictions. But as the enthusiasm evaporated the price settled down to trade in a narrow range of about £8,600 a tonne for the high grade contract, which normally commands a premium of about £100 over the standard contract. The ITA buffer stock manager had clearly placed a floor beneath the price, but the chances of a strong rally were small.

Recent weeks, however, have seen a noticeable fall in the London price. There are two reasons. One is a change of tactics by the buffer stock manager who has been concentrating on Kuala Lumpur where he is obliged by the ITA to keep the price above MS29.15 a kilogramme.

Dollonds

The arrival of two accountants at loss-making Dollonds Photographic Holdings has created the revamp atmosphere the stock market finds so intriguing - particularly at a time when shares are riding high.

Messrs. Norman Fetterman and Anthony Ward have already had an impact on Dollonds and its shares. The company has now withdrawn completely from photographic shops - the last three closed on Christmas Eve - and has ventured into such diverse fields as special television effects and estate agents.

The shares have responded in dramatic fashion, rising this year from 26p to 340p. Yesterday they were unchanged at £320p.

Mr Fetterman and Mr Ward are sitting pretty. They paid 37p (£174,000) for their 54 per cent stake which is now worth some £1.5m.

Yesterday came the first visible trading sign of their stewardship in the half year to end July. Dollonds suffered a £143,374 loss. For the full year there will also be a loss, although possibly some improvement on the interim figures. Redundancy costs are a rogue element in the full year figures, but the proceeds from shop sales should be a sweetener.

The television operation, which will cost about £1m in three instalments, should help transform next year's results. And the estate agency interest - which should grow to 13 or so branches in 1984, offers potentially rich rewards.

Dollonds is also moving into financial services but initially, at any rate, this will be related to the housing market. With its exotic share rising Dollonds is unlikely to resist the temptation to buy more businesses.

Private health group 'ready to expand'

Lord Constantine, chairman of the London Private Health Group, reported yesterday in his interim statement that the board is more than ever convinced that the group's investment in the Garden Hospital at Heaton, North London, has given it a solid basis for expansion.

considerations, but would protect LPHG's longer term future. The Garden Hospital was making a positive contribution to the group's progress and the outlook was encouraging, Lord Constantine said.

long-term nursing. Lord Constantine said he hoped to give details soon, particularly about a 42-bed hospital project at Cambridge. Given the cost of each fresh project, LPHG's involvement was more likely to be on a management basis for which it was equipped and which it was already performing for the Swindon private hospital.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street market data including various stock indices and prices.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including metals, grains, and other goods.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

New Wessex fund launched

Granville & Co, one of the biggest managers in the venture capital sector, is launching an additional business expansion fund intended primarily to benefit West Country companies, Derek Harris writes.

The Wessex fund will close next January and investments will be made by April 5. With the Wessex fund there will be identified by Granville is related to Wessex.

A management fee of 6 per cent of cash advanced plus VAT. There will be warrants for an option on unissued shares with Granville looking to stakes of five to seven per cent.



MR FRIDAY

Move to link aid to firms

Realignment of the work of three key organizations involved in improving local initiatives benefiting particularly small and medium-sized businesses is being examined by a working party due to report by Easter.

Stephen O'Brien, chief executive at BIC, says: "There is not so much overlap between the three from an operational point of view but the general perception is that there is overlap and that there is a competition for resources - and obviously that is important. Sponsoring companies feel that an awful lot of people have been knocking on their door."

agencies around the country, he estimates. O'Brien added: "It has been relatively easy until now to get backing for a new enterprise agency, because the business community has proved it wants to help. But after a couple of years there are worries whether the backing will continue, particularly in the flow of seconded executives. About a score of big companies are the main source of secondments because they see the value of either giving young managers out-of-company experience or putting pre-retirement executives' experience to good use in improving the industrial health of the local area."

Large table of financial data, including Authorized Units & Insurance Funds, with columns for various fund names and their respective values.

هنا من الأمل

Seeking harmony on the park

Police tackle St Paul's and help bring equilibrium to an inflammable situation

It was the classic tragicomic situation of any football match... a windy, pretty public park in Bristol. Halfway through the half the visiting left back...



John Carver improving relationships at a football match (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

White trying to talk himself back into Wednesday's team as players arrived in their post-bath ancient BMWs. Adrian Smith says: 'The club has demonstrated it's not all bad down here, but being black...

Motoring by Clifford Webb Don't let road hogs lose your cool

Some of you may like to join me in a new year's resolution not to lose my temper with the increasing number of road hogs who get their kicks from incourteous, not to say endangering, others on the road.

Pakistan in trouble after Yallop's 268

The truth of the old adage that cricket is a game that never should be taken for granted was borne out yet again in the fourth Test match between Australia and Pakistan here yesterday.

CRICKET: THREE RECORD-BREAKING TEST MATCH BATSMEN IN THE LIMELIGHT

Yallop majestic

He uprooted Qasim Omar's leg stump after Javed Miandad survived yet again in the fourth Test match between Australia and Pakistan here yesterday.

Gavaskar passes another milestone

Madras, (Reuter) - Sunil Gavaskar followed up his record 30th Test century by registering the highest score made by an Indian in Test cricket yesterday.

Move to join committee by Boycott

Geoffrey Boycott has applied to join the Yorkshire committee which has been dissolved for two months ago. Boycott handed in his nomination at Headingley yesterday afternoon and afterwards he said that the application was not made on the spur of the moment...

General Lancia, Rover 3.5 SE, Volvo, Granada 2.6 Ghia, Mercedes-Benz 500 SE. Includes descriptions and prices for various car models.

General Lancaster Official Porsche Centre. Lists various Porsche models like 911, 924, 944, 959 with their specifications and prices.

General Lancaster. Lists various car models like Mercedes-Benz, Saab, and other vehicles with their specifications and prices.

Broom House Leasing. Specializing in BMW, Mercedes, Renault, Toyota. Offers leasing services for various car models.

SAAB, Rolls-Royce and Bentley, Jaguar/Daimler, VW/Audi. Lists various car models like Saab 900, Rolls-Royce Phantom, Bentley Continental, Jaguar XJ6, VW Golf, Audi 100.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Daville

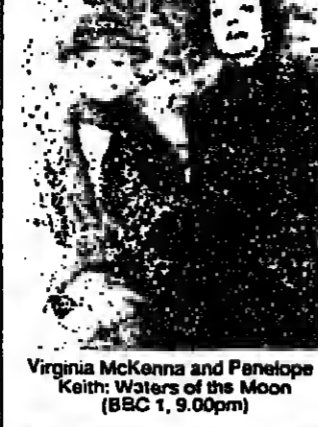
BBC1

6.00 Ceefax AN: News and information, available on every television set.
6.30 Breakfast Time: with Frank Bough, Fern Britton. Today's 'specials' include Pop News Weekender 7.45 and 8.30 and Audrey Eytors' Slim and Shine phone-in (8.30-9.00).
8.00 The New Adventures of Flash Gordon: cartoon version of the cartoon strip. 9.25 Why Don't You...? From Belfast; 5.50 Wacky Races: cartoon; 10.25 Play Chess: includes a boys v girls challenge match; 10.30 Lactation: Andrew Burt reads more from Elizabeth Renier's The Lightkeepers (r); 10.25 Peddling: another tale about the bear; 10.30 Play Chess: 12.30 News: 1.30 News; 12.45 Christmas; 10.55 Play Ideas: with Carol Chell.
11.05 Little Misses and the Mister Men: for the toddlers; 11.20 Smoke: second and final part to the Walt Disney film about a secretly-kept dog; 12.05 Look Back with Noakes: The cycle tamagon called the Milk Race; 12.30 News; 1.30 News; 12.45 Christmas; 10.55 Play Ideas: with Carol Chell.
1.00 Bonanza: Venerable western series, with Lorne Greene and Dan Blocker.
1.45 Film: Kluge (1983) A film about the battle of the wells, in the 1880s, between General Gordon (Charlton Heston, with subdued American accent) and the Mahdi (Laurie R. King, with dark make-up and looking not unlike his Othello). Staff stuff, with vigorous action on the battlefield. With Ralph Richardson, Richard Johnson and Nigel Green.
3.50 Goodbye to the Good Old Days: A behind-the-scenes look at the City Variety Shows, where the long run of televised music-hall shows has come to an end. The post-fadeaway part are Frank Vaughan, Roy Hudd, Les Dawson Larry Grayson and Barry Cryer.
4.20 Laurel and Hardy: unworthy cartoon version of the film original. 4.25 Jackanory: Part three of Thurber's '13 Clocks'; 4.40 Yogi Bear; old cartoon, revived for Christmas; 4.45 Take Hart: A history of numerals, with the clever Tony Hart; 5.05 Chuggers: Playgroup Pop show, with Keith Chegwin as M.C. (Items from Bernadette Nolan, Bucks Fizz and others.
5.00 News; 5.50 Cartoon: Lonesome Strangers; 6.00 Chuggers.
6.20 Film: Watford of Atlantis (1978) Fantasy about the lost city where, unaccountably, dinosaurs have survived. With Doug McClure and Cyd Charisse, and a giant octopus.
7.45 The Townsman: The Townsman Theatre Masters. The great names include David Hayman, Roy Clarke, Emily Hughes, Alan Ball, David Duckham, Andy Ripley, Ken Buchanan and Chester Barnes. The programme comes from the High Wycombe Sports Centre, and is introduced by David Vine and Ron Pickering.
8.45 News; with Nicholas Witchell.
9.00 Writers of the Moon: Penelope Keith in a sketch by Michael Nutter's much-broadcast play about a Christmas holiday in the early 1950s. Others in a strong cast: Ronald Pickup, Geoffrey Fisher, Doreen Lawrence, Joan Sims and Richard Vernon. (See Choice).
10.40 Camo's Lib: A peep into 1984 and a look back at 1983 before it gives up the ghost. With Jasper Carrott, Christopher Barrie, Nick Maloney and others.
11.25 Film: The Midnight Man (1974) Complicated thriller, with Burt Lancaster (also directed the film) as a college security man who becomes involved in a student's murder. With Susan Clark and Cameron Mitchell. Ends at 1.25.

BBC2

6.25 Good Morning Britain: presented by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond, today's 'specials' include Pick of the Week (6.40 and 8.30) visit to a country's home-town (7.45) Weekend TV (8.35) and Diana Ross's advice spot (8.45). Regular items include morning papers (8.25), Mad Lizzie (8.45 and 8.55) and Competition Time (8.25).
9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland.
9.25 Thelma: News headlines. Followed by Sesame Street with the Muppets; 10.25 Cartoon Time: with Sylvester and Twenty Bird; 10.40 Film: The Invincible Ivan (1975) Made-for-TV drama (not based on the H. G. Wells classic) starring David McCallum who wants to keep his invisibility secret out of the Pentagon's hands.
12.00 We'll Tell You a Story: with Christopher Lillicrap (r); 12.10 Rainbow: repeated at 4.00; 12.30 Survival: The Bird with Two Heads. How the BBC's first TV drama managed to escape extinction.
1.00 News; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Yuletide: The Prince of Wales narrates this film about the architectural masterpiece in Somerset, now being restored.
2.00 Film: Mission Galactica: The Cylon Attack (1979) Made-for-TV space adventure yarn, with robots menacing the Earth. With Richard Hatch, Lorne Greene and Dirk Benedict.
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4.00 Children's TV: Rainbow (r); 4.20 Sooty: Puppel show, with Duncan Goodhew among the non-puppets; 4.45 Fortezza Paladina - a Child's Eye View. The post-fadeaway story that has not been told before. What life is like for the island's youngsters; 5.15 Peter and the Wolf: unusual interpretation of the popular children's story.
5.45 News; 6.00 Thames news headlines; 6.15 Police 5: with Shaw Taylor.
6.30 The Young Doctors: Australian hospital life drama.
7.00 Family Fortunes: the Bartrams from Fringe takes on the Mobbers from Kings Heath.
7.30 Film: Live a Little, Steal a Lot (1974) Based-on-fact thriller about two of the world's most accomplished jewel thieves (played by Robert Conrad, Don Stroud) who are planning the most audacious theft of their lives - priceless gems in the New York Museum of Natural History.
9.15 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet: More about the Georgia 'bricks' working in Germany. Dennis (Tim Healy), now divorced, has found consolation in the arms of Dagmar (Brigitte Kahn), a secretary on the construction site. Fate foils his intention to keep the romance secret.
10.15 News from ITN.
10.30 Tom Jones - Here Where the Road goes wild. With Keith Michener, the Welsh singer's first concert platform appearance in his homeland since leaving his Pontypridd home for the United States in 1974. This is the opening concert of his British tour. It took place in Cardiff. As well as being joined by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir, he sings many of his favourite songs.
11.30 To Win at All Costs: A film describing the process by which Australia succeeded in wrestling the America's Cup from the grip of the Americans after 132 years. The summer of 1983 made yachting history. At the end of tonight's film, you hear the Night Thoughts of Max Sinclair, assistant director, Christian Centre, Hildenborough Hall, Kent.

BBC2



Virginia McKenna and Penelope Keith: Waters of the Moon (BBC 1, 9.00pm)

BBC 2

1.40 Film: The Pirates (1949) One of the gems in the crown of the MGM musical - a swashy, straggled and lute-padded romantic comedy (songs by Cole Porter including Be A Clown, Love of My Life, and Nine.) Co-starring Gene Kelly as the travelling player who, to win the heart of a well-bred girl on a 19th-century Caribbean island, Judy Garland poses as a notorious pirate. Directed by Vincent Minnelli.
3.20 Machines in Motion: The fourth of Professor Leonard Mauser's Royal Institution Christmas lectures for Young People. Today's subject: Under Control.
4.20 Romany: A tribute (much deserved) to the Rev George Brannwell Evans who as 'Romany' was one of the gentle pillars of Children's Hour on BBC radio. His was the affable voice to beat them all. The part of 'Romany' is played today by Peter Whitbread.
4.50 Film: Notorious (1946) Hitchcock thriller, with Gary Grant as the American secret service man who hopes to put paid to the antics of the head of a neo-Nazi ring in South America (Claude Rains) by getting the daughter of an alleged traitor (Ingrid Bergman) to marry the Nazi. A rating good yarn.
6.30 George Orwell: The Road to Wigan Pier. In the second of the arena's four films about the writer, we learn about the writing of his first link with the working classes. 7.25 News.
7.30 A Year in the Life of the World: A Global Report, written by Peter Adamson, with Peter Francis's narration (See Choice).
9.00 A Cap Round the Year: Comedy show about which the title is being revealed except that it stars the up-and-coming John Sessions.
9.30 Film: Billion Dollar Brain (1967) Breathless, very complicated Ian Dalton thriller, over-directed by Ken Russell, with seedy secret agent Harry Palmer (Michael Caine) involved in an American megacorporation's bid to take over the world. With Keith Michener, Francois Delbecq, Oscar Homolka and Ed Begley; 11.15 News.
11.20 International Basketball: Defending champions Macabali Tel Aviv take on all comers in the Philips World Invitational Club Championships, at Crystal Palace. Commentary by Stuart Storey and Tom Wiseman.
11.55 Film: Anna Karenina (1937) The Marx Brothers' second film - the one in which Groucho, memorably, sang 'Hurray for Captain Spaulding'. Chico played Sugarbun, and Margaret Dumont was more vigorously manhandled than in any Marx Brothers film. The plot is vaguely to do with the theft of a famous painting at a country house party. Directed by Victor Heerman. Ends at 1.35am.

CHOICE

"Dull" This is Dohwatenhall, says the young shepherd propros of the Dartmoor hotel for the impoverished gentility that her mother runs in N C Humer's WATERS OF THE MOON (BBC 1, 9.00pm). Dullness does, indeed, reach its apogee in this isolated establishment (made even more isolated by a heavy Christmas Week snowfall). The guest list: one dozing colonel, one gloomy, sullen and Austrian; one chocolate-guzzler; one sour lady in reduced circumstances. The managerial list: one sickly son, one over-zealous mother, one low-love daughter. Then, like some meteor, The Good Life flashes through the hotel, bringing rich and noisy wife, one husband, one daughter, all forced to seek shelter in the hotel when their Rolls decides to pack up for the holiday period. Mr Hunter's warmly

WORLD

WORLD (BBC 2, 7.30pm) attempts the impossible and comes within an ace of achieving it. In under 50 minutes, it encircles the globe and comes back with what sounds like comprehensive and irrefutable evidence of the gross outer best hopes and worst fears about things like population growth and the medical and economic health of nations. But the wonder of this Global Report special does not lie so much in the amplitude of its statistics as in the strength of the stories of 10 men and women it has managed to uncover. The Liberian rubber worker turned rice-grower, for example, The Pacific Islander displaced by nuclear missiles, and the Colombian boy caught up in what seems a hopeless fight to put an end to the appalling infant mortality in the Andean village in which she lives.

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Radio 2

Radio 2: News on the hour (except 8.00 and 9.00am) major bulletins 7.00, 8.00am, 1.00, 5.00pm and 12.00 midnight; 8.00am-9.00am: 8.30, 9.30, 10.30am (Muzak); 10.30-11.00am: 10.30am (Muzak); 11.00-11.30am: 11.00am (Muzak); 11.30-12.00pm: 11.30am (Muzak); 12.00-12.30pm: 12.00pm (Muzak); 12.30-1.00pm: 12.30pm (Muzak); 1.00-1.30pm: 1.00pm (Muzak); 1.30-2.00pm: 1.30pm (Muzak); 2.00-2.30pm: 2.00pm (Muzak); 2.30-3.00pm: 2.30pm (Muzak); 3.00-3.30pm: 3.00pm (Muzak); 3.30-4.00pm: 3.30pm (Muzak); 4.00-4.30pm: 4.00pm (Muzak); 4.30-5.00pm: 4.30pm (Muzak); 5.00-5.30pm: 5.00pm (Muzak); 5.30-6.00pm: 5.30pm (Muzak); 6.00-6.30pm: 6.00pm (Muzak); 6.30-7.00pm: 6.30pm (Muzak); 7.00-7.30pm: 7.00pm (Muzak); 7.30-8.00pm: 7.30pm (Muzak); 8.00-8.30pm: 8.00pm (Muzak); 8.30-9.00pm: 8.30pm (Muzak); 9.00-9.30pm: 9.00pm (Muzak); 9.30-10.00pm: 9.30pm (Muzak); 10.00-10.30pm: 10.00pm (Muzak); 10.30-11.00pm: 10.30pm (Muzak); 11.00-11.30pm: 11.00pm (Muzak); 11.30-12.00am: 11.30pm (Muzak); 12.00-12.30am: 12.00am (Muzak); 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